

THE
HISTORY
of the Montgomery
Swedish Countess of G*.
In Two PARTS.

PART I. Consisting of a NARRATIVE as well of the
Fortunate as Disastrous Revolutions of her Life, in
Livonia, Sweden, and Holland.

PART II. Containing an ACCOUNT of the Sufferings
of the Count, her Husband, as well in Muscovy, as
during Five Years Banishment to Siberia.

WITH THE

PARTICULARS which occured to Both of them, in Holland
and in England, after their meeting each other again.

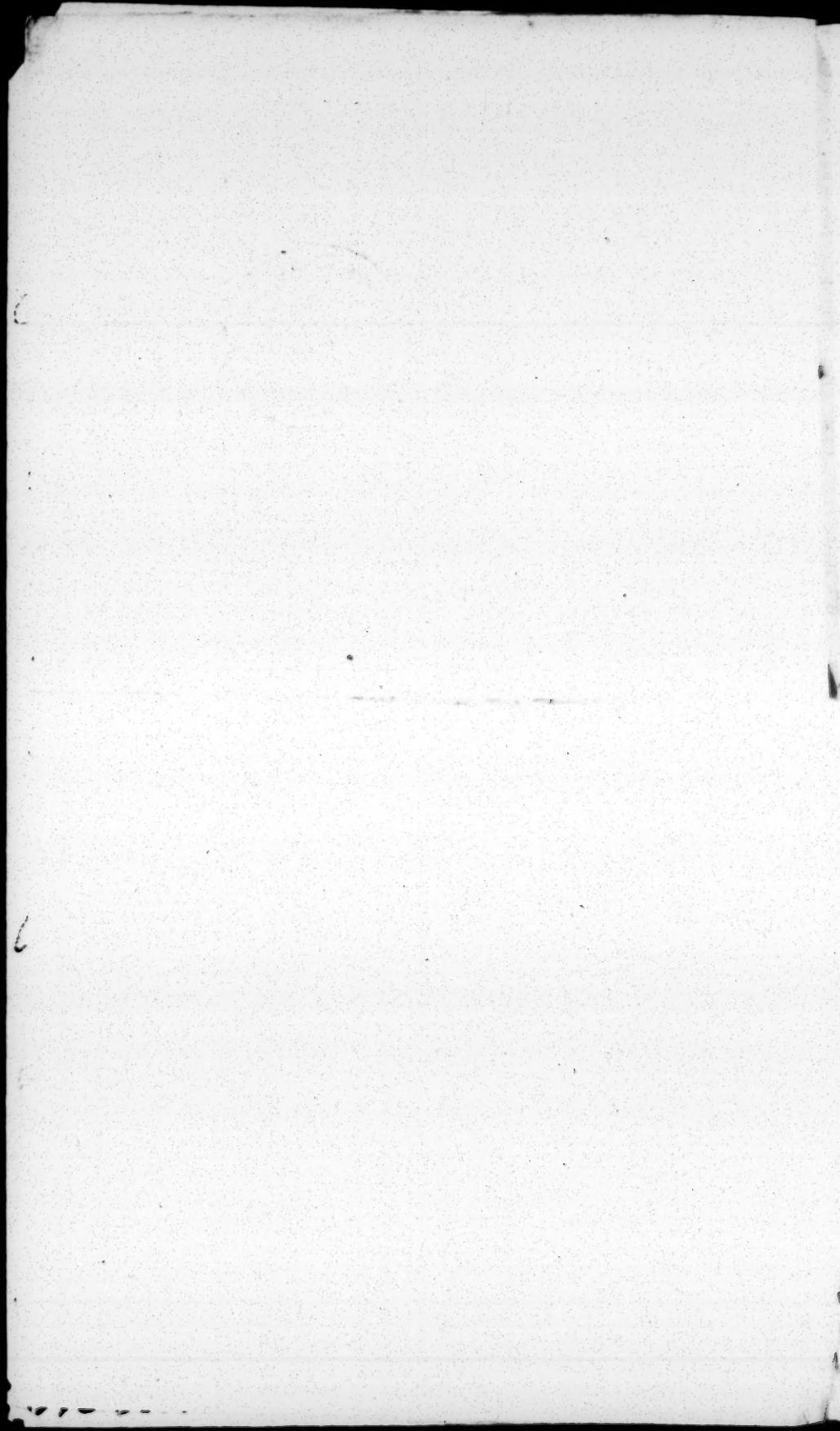
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Translated from the Original GERMAN.

Let wealth, let honour, wait the wedded dame!
August her deed, and sacred be her fame! POPE.

D U B L I N :

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The TRANSLATOR'S
P R E F A C E.

IF the following HISTORY has the good fortune to please, I shall have reason to blame myself for my doubtfulness, and shall not know what excuse to make for having mistrusted the great character which it bears in Germany, where the Author of this piece is the favourite writer at this time. What disheartened me at first, as to setting about translating it, was its foreign extract, and the prevailing talent of an Englishman, namely, that narrow admiration of the productions of his own country, for which he is censured all over Europe; especially considering it might not quadrate with the present taste of writing here, where books of this kind are rather less serious and solid than our author's: nevertheless, having read the original over more than once, and discovering every time fresh touches for painting the practice of social duties, and a philosophical resignation to our destiny pourtrayed in the most vivid and indelible colours, I did at last, for the sake of propagating these important topics, attempt to offer it to the candid English reader, who, it is presumed, will admire the author's happy turn in conveying his grand doctrines, and perhaps excuse the translator for his deficiency in preserving the admirable spirit of his author.

But lest I should be suspected to refer to imaginary authorities, concerning the character

which this history bears in Germany, it will, I think, be sufficient for me to remove this suspicion by mentioning two or three circumstances which will serve as vouchers for what I have offered: and first, Dr. Luther, a gentleman eminent in the law, at Francfort, to whom I am beholden for the copy from which this history is translated, in a letter which mentions his sending it me, says, "Conformable to your request
 " I send you a select piece of German writing,
 " which it is pity should be reckoned among
 " Novels, because of its useful turn, which
 " tends much more to instruction than to
 " amusement."

In the next place, the Compiler of the Literary Gazette, in his article from Lipsick, after he has given notice of the publication of this history, and spoken much in praise of it, concludes in the following manner: "We may
 " venture to say, that the history of the Coun-
 " tess of G* merits the same favourable recep-
 " tion, with which the PAMELA of England,
 " and the MARIANNE of France, have been
 " deservedly honoured; the morality thereof
 " being equally exemplary, and the characters
 " drawn in as regular, strong, and lively a man-
 " ner; the facts appear in a rational series, not
 " without a close connexion; they are mov-
 " ing, and excite a serious attention. He who
 " can read this little work without being pleased,
 " and at the same time instructed, must cer-
 " tainly be void of all humanity as well as ge-
 " nius, and deserves to be prohibited reading
 " at all. In the mean time it is hoped, the ju-
 " dicious

“ dicious readers will agree in this, that if any
 “ objection can be made to this work, it is on
 “ account of its brevity ; a circumstance which
 “ always tends to the credit of any writing, if
 “ its perspicuity is not hurt by too studious an
 “ adherence to the former.”

As to the author’s name, though he has not decorated the title of the German edition with it, yet we have thought fit to retain it, since the compiler of the above-mentioned Gazette mentions him under the name of **GELLERT** : and I have very lately had the honour to be admitted into the company of two German gentlemen of distinction, now upon their travels, and at this instant in London ; who are personally acquainted with the author **C. F. GELLERT**, whose erudition and capacity of judicious writing they were extolling, and particularly that incomparable piece (as they were pleased to call it) of the **SWEDISH COUNTESS**. At the same time they favoured me with another piece of his performance, which has been but very lately published, and is intituled, **LETTERS**, with practical rules for good letter-writing : from which latter book it appears, that he is a man very well versed in the English language, and who inspects our writings very narrowly ; as may be judged from what is contained p. 117. where he makes this satirical remark : ‘ Among the letters which have been written in our times in the German language, the familiar ones, which have been published in Dantzig, have gained great applause. In fact, we ought to wonder why we are still so deficient in good

' letters and novels in our language, considering
 ' that we have made no small progress in rhetoro-
 ' ric and poetry : are good orators and poets not
 ' capable of writing good letters also ? Do we not
 ' find it by Cicero and Pliny ; and among the
 ' modern writers, by Chaulieu, Racine, Rous-
 ' seau, Voltaire, Pope *, and by many others ?
 ' Are we above writing letters, or do we think
 ' them too troublesome ? Is our language too
 ' rough and undigested ? Or do we write more
 ' letters in foreign languages than in our own ?
 ' Or are we fit only for such rhetoric as requires
 ' art and trouble ? Perhaps it is for one of these
 ' reasons that we have as yet no more letters ex-
 ' pressive of good taste.' And then he puts the
 following note to answer the above reference*.
 ' Perhaps every one will not find in his (Pope's)
 ' letters what may be expected from so great a
 ' man. How nicely has one of his countrymen
 ' distinguished the characters of letter-writing !
 ' I speak of the author of CLARISSA ; for, not-
 ' withstanding the greatly diversified persons of
 ' that work, from Clarissa even to Arabella, he
 ' makes every one of them write in such a man-
 ' ner, as others would have actually written in
 ' the same circumstances. And this master-piece
 ' of genius deserves as high a place among Let-
 ' ters as it claims among Novels.'

These considerations, which have been pre-
 mised, who will not think sufficient inducements
 for me to try, whether in return for his attach-
 ment to English works we should think fit to
 receive his performances with equal kindness.

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
Swedish Countess of G.*

WERE I to observe the method of novelists, who commonly introduce their heroes with an account of their pedigrees, I should perhaps not have wanted matter to trace my descent more highly as they often pretend to do, especially in cases where they have scarce any ground for such a subject: but because I am not proud of my ancestry, and because my parents died when I was in my infancy, I have given myself no trouble about my genealogy, and am contented with what I have been told concerning my father, to whom they give the character of having been a Livonian, of noble extract, and of great integrity; but of a narrow fortune.

After the death of my father my uncle took me into his family. He was a man who in his younger years had applied himself to study, and lived, at the time of the commencement of this History, in the country, where he had the education of his children at heart, and where I had the advantage of being brought up amongst

them, till I was sixteen years old. I still remember what he once said to his wife, when she asked him, how he would order it about my further education? In the morning, replied he, Miss shall have the education of men, and in the afternoon that of women. My aunt who never had a daughter, lov'd me dearly; and, wanting to keep me always about her, was uneasy to see me obliged, like her sons, to learn foreign languages, and other vain pedantries, as she us'd to call them. She therefore desired her husband, more than once, to excuse me from attending these studious exercisef; but to no purpose: be not afraid, Madam (said my uncle once to his wife upon this occasion,) that Miss will learn too much; for I do not intend to make a scholar of her, but only to acquaint her with what is requisite for a prudent woman: She has no fortune, you know, that can recommend her to an exalted state, or enable her to live independent; for which reason she ought to be endowed with such qualities as are admired by men who prefer virtue to riches, and fix their happiness and comfort of life in being contracted to a prudent and agreeable person. My uncle, I must own, spared nothing towards advancing me in knowledge; and I actually believe I should have arrived sooner at mature understanding had my aunt died a few years earlier. 'Tis true, she did not keep me unacquainted with housewifry; but at the same time she raised in me such an appetite to gallantry, as might easily have turned into haughtiness. She would often shut herself into her room with me, and dress me up in the finest manner; then lead me

me to the looking-glass, and tell me that I looked like an angel ; then undress me again, and still admire me. I own, I was at that time but young, yet old enough to imbibe a vanity which seems natural to our sex : but, fortunately for me, my aunt happened to die before I was ten years old ; and her death put me under the entire care of my uncle, who soon destroyed those idle impressions which I had received from my aunt's maxims and conversation. I had a natural propensity to be good ; wherefore my inclinations were govern'd by encouraging, more than by curbing them. My uncle first taught me to set about the regulation of my passions ; and, by degrees, changed the pleasures with which I indulged my eyes, into such as befit the excellency of the soul. He was not insensible of my thinking myself handsome ; and therefore endeavoured the more, to make me acquainted with a right knowledge of myself, and to represent the advantage of taking delight in such faculties as beget an inward pleasure in one's mind, and which surpass all the satisfaction which we conceive from popular admiration.

If any of my readers think that my uncle delivered himself to me according to the rules of rhetoric, and in florid expressions, they may be assured of the contrary ; for he conveyed religion to me in terms more intelligible ; and convinced me of the great advantages which attend virtue, in our different degrees of age as well as station ; not only in prosperous, but also in adverse conditions ; at the point of death, and even after our dissolution : all which truths my uncle

had the art to demonstrate in such a manner as that they were easily remembred, and not difficult to be understood by me ; and it is owing to those conceptions, that in my riper years I never looked upon virtue as a burden, but regarded her as the surest guide to direct us in our journey thro' this world : which makes me believe, that the precepts of fundamental religion are as capable of illuminating our understanding, as they are necessary for the mending of our hearts ; and I am persuaded, that a great many would shew more skill in their several professions and callings, had religion been early imprinted on their hearts. But, not to go further in my digression —my uncle never obliged me to a tacit acceptance of whatever he advanced for my instruction ; but rather bid me doubt and scruple at what should be above my immediate comprehension, till by my own reflecting and examining into it, I should be convinced of its truth. In short, he instructed me in that wisdom which communicates itself from the understanding to the heart, and renders us moral, affable, generous, and content ; whereas many satisfy themselves with frothy notions, which only serve in conversation, to impose upon such as cannot well distinguish solid sense from superficial smattering. But lest it should be doubted, whether my uncle succeeded in endowing me with all these noble sentiments ; and lest I should be thought to persuade the reader into a belief of my good qualities ; I shall say no more upon that head, but pursue the history of my life without magnifying or condemning myself ; leaving to the justice of the reader,

reader, what constructions he shall put upon my conduct, since I am apprehensive that after a most genuine stating as well my fair actions as inadvertencies, I shall nevertheless be suspected either of ambition, or of false humility.

I was sixteen years old when I was married to the Swedish Count G*, who was possessed of an estate in Livonia, contiguous to my uncle's premises; which happened to prove instrumental to my exaltation: for, about a twelvemonth before my marriage, the Count and his father came to spend part of the summer in Livonia; and because my uncle was his nearest neighbour, the Count used to visit him; and at such times it was that he beheld me employed in my domestic affairs; but he had scarce seen me twice, before I perceived that he liked me, without my endeavouring to attract him: for how could I think to captivate a man of his high rank, who myself, as well in descent as in fortune, was so much inferior to him, he being a colonel of a regiment, and a great courtier, very rich, and handsome withal? Notwithstanding all which, I find it was my good luck that I used no dissimulation, nor art to win him, but rather behaved free and open to him, instead of endeavouring, by prudish airs of modesty, to make myself seem valuable; or thinking my virtue exposed, because I spoke to him audibly: for tho' in fact he was dear to my heart, yet the thoughts that I never should be courted by such a man, moderated my inward wishes for him.

After the Count was returned to Sweden, he had not been many months there before he wrote to

to me ; and the whole of his letter terminated in the question, Whether I could resolve to become his wife, and to follow him into Sweden. This raised an agreeable surprize in me ; and the generous manner in which he offered me his heart, put me into an ecstacy of love for him : for there is a certain noble and most bewitching way of expressing one's true regard ; in which the judgment has the least share, since the heart itself acts the chiefest part in it : but to understand me here the better, the reader is desired to give his attention to the letter itself.

Dear Madam,

• I Love you. Be not astonish'd, my good Lady, at this confession ; yet if you cannot help being surprized at this my boldness, permit me to affirm, upon my honour, that the fault arises from my sincerity alone. Give me leave, dear Lady, to proceed : but, what can I say ? I love you — this is all ; and I lov'd you from the first moment I saw and spoke to you. I declare indeed, that I have endeavoured to banish you from my thoughts, since the circumstances of my native country required it : but all has been in vain, and my efforts have only made me more certain of the reality of my love, and of your merits. Is it possible, that my fondness for you should offend you ? — I hope not : for why should you scorn the love of one whom you have permitted to shew a regard for your person ? But, will you forbear resenting now, when I speak the sentiments of my heart more openly ? May I ask you, whether

• you

you can incline to love me ; and, whether you
can resolve upon becoming my wife, and with-
that intention to follow me to Sweden ? You
are too generous to refuse an answert o a questi-
on on the result whereof so much depends, with-
respect to myself. Ah ! dearest ; why is it not
possible for me to know this very moment,
whether I am deserving of your favour ; and
whether I may hope ? Consider, madam, with-
out perplexing yourself, what answer you can
give to a lover whose tenderness and value for
you he counts his greatest merits. I would not
too sensibly agitate your heart—take what time
you will for deliberation ; but consider how long
every moment will be to me, before you shall
let me know my fate. How eagerly should I
solicit for your love, were I to pursue my incli-
nation according to the force of my passion on-
ly ! But—no—your love is too precious to me
to boast of, unless you make me posses'd of it
by your own choice and consent. As shocking
however as your negative answer would prove to
me, it shall not lessen the love and esteem I
have for you : for why should I hate an amiable
object of your sex, because she does not choose
to yield her heart to me for ever ?—I shall ra-
ther continue to value you, and think myself
undeserving of success. How hard is it for me
to close this letter ; and how readily would I
wear out the pen, in setting down numberless
times, that I love you ; that I love you inces-
santly ; and that I watch all your looks, in
hopes of discovering from them something in
my favour. Farewel ! Ah ! dear madam, when
will you answer me ?

This

This letter was sent, together with one from the Count's father, to my uncle; and it was not long after, that I became the bride of a gallant Lord. I could wish I were able to tell what passed in my heart from that time. I had never loved before. But how romantic, perhaps, will this sound to many of my female readers, who will be apt to think that I was deficient in every faculty that is engaging, or else charge me with stupidity, because I could say nothing about amorous intrigues in which I had a share, tho' now sixteen years old! But, let it be either to my honour or shame, the reader may believe me, that I never had loved before, though my uncle did not debar me from conversing with young gentlemen: but now my heart at once began to be sensible. My Count, indeed, was above two hundred miles from me; but love brought him before my eyes; where-ever I was, he was with me: nothing was more handsome, nothing more perfect, than he: I often (tho' by myself) thought I spoke to him, and that he would embrace me, but that I flew from his arms. This, no doubt, will be thought ridiculous by the gay part of my sex; but they ought to know, that an innocent and tender bride is in fact a creature of another world, which cannot be considered without astonishment: her features, her speech, her gait, and all her actions, turn informers of her heart, let her conceal it ever so industriously: I hardly eat or drank for several weeks; yet nobody could discover the least change in my complexion; and I became more and more fond.

As soon as matters were settled, my uncle took
a jour-

a journey with me to Sweden, and several gentlemen and young ladies accompanied me a considerable way at my setting out: at last we parted, but not with so much grief as I had apprehended, my friends being more rejoiced at my ensuing happiness, than sorry for my leaving them. And here, perhaps, it will be objected by novelists, that I should have introduced a scene of seducing or ravishing me: but how would this agree with the love I bear to truth, were I, for method sake, to charge an act of villainy upon any of my company? Besides, what would it have availed to use violent or soothng means to alienate my heart from the Count, whom I was absolutely resolved to make the sovereign there? We proceeded also in our journey unmolested, and arrived safe and well at the country seat to which the Count then was retired. I was transported at the sight of him; and I thought him much handsomer and more amiable than he had appear'd to my eyes the summer before. But this may easily be accounted for; because when I saw him in Livonia I did not know that he loved me, whereas now I was sure, that he had a most tender regard for me. A person commonly becomes more perfect and meritorious in our eyes, when we are confident of his love to us: and tho' he should have no great advantage of recommending himself otherwise, yet his affection to us makes amends for his imperfections: for what is more pleasing to us than to be assured that we are loved? And how can love become constant, unless it is supported by mutually delighting in the object of our love?

My

My dear Lord, the Count, welcomed me in the most tender manner ; and I doubt whether it is possible to be more happy than I then thought myself by his side. Our marriage therefore was consummated soon after my arrival, in a plain, private, but, certainly, most satisfactory manner ; for I had not been above one week in Sweden, and recovered myself from the fatigues of my journey, when the Count desired me to fix upon a day for our marriage : to which I returned, that indeed I thought no time too soon to have the honour of becoming his wife ; yet that no day should be more acceptable to me than that which he should chuse himself for that purpose. And thus, without further consulting, we fixed upon the next following day.

In the morning he visited me in my apartment, and asked me, whether I maintained my resolution of becoming Lady to-day ? To which I answer'd him with half-averted eyes ; and received from him an ardent and sincere kiss. I was then dressed in an indifferent, yet well chosen suit. You please me mightily in this dress, said the Count to me : it fits your shape, and you make it look handsom upon you ; I think you need put on no other dress this day. If you like me in it, my Lord, replied I, I shall think myself dressed very suitable on the approaching occasion. The rest of that morning was chiefly spent in discoursing together, in the most tender manner : at last I sat down to the spinet, on which I play'd about half an hour, and, at the request of the Count, seconded by my own heart, joined my voice ; till noon came on, about which

time

time the Count's father (his mother and an only sister being dead) and my uncle came to us, and having made their compliments, informed us, that the minister was come; upon which we descended into the parlour. The ceremony of our marriage being over, we four and the minister sat down to dinner; and I do not remember that our table was served with more than six or seven courses. Several married Ladies of my country, and station, will look upon our wedding-day to have been celebrated after a poor manner; but I assure them, that it gave infinite satisfaction to me, as I was entirely free from that noise and hurry which is common at wedding feasts, and which cannot but disturb the new married couple. After dinner we went in a coach to Sir R—, who lived not many miles from us, and who had been my husband's companion in his travels, on which account he had a particular esteem for that gentleman. Here is my dear Lady, was my husband's first speech to Sir R—, to whom I have been married this very day: don't you think I have an excellent judgment in chusing? Pray bear witness of our mutual happiness, and give us your company back to our house; to which Sir R— consented; and thus we returned home, without stopping, and passed the evening away as contentedly as we had done the noon.

I remember now that I have not hitherto described my husband, and therefore beg leave to do it in this place. He was of a brownish complexion, and had such a dazzling lustre in his eyes, as was enough to strike an awe in a timorous beholder of them, who should take notice of

of no other part of his face: but a softness of his other features moderated the fierceness of his eyes, and made him look with an air of generosity, inclined to tenderness: he was also tall, and well grown. More I shall not mention, lest being too particular in describing him I should lessen the beauty of his whole picture. Sufficient it is that my Count was the most handsom of men in my eyes.

Soon after our marriage, my husband was ordered to his regiment: but to make his absence more tolerable to me, his father took me with him to see his other estates which he had in Sweden. It happened at one of these places that I met with a young and very handsom woman, who was said to be the widow of the steward of that estate. This woman was charming in her person, and discovered something so pleasing, and so humane in her conversation, as immediately gained her my favour, and soon after my friendship. I intreated her to accompany me in my return home, and to live with me; assuring her at the same time, that she should not be a servant, but my companion; and when she should chuse to be no longer with me, that I would provide for her in a genteel manner. She accepted indeed of my offer with tears in her eyes, but excused herself from following me, partly on account of her young son, and partly because she delighted in a still and retired life. In the mean time she was always near me, and shewed such a regard and love for me, that I could not forbear pressing her to tell me in what manner I might do her service. But she generously

roully refused all my offers, and desired nothing but my favour. The old Count was now ready to leave this place; and while the young widow was conducting me to the coach, I saw a child standing at a window of one of the out-houses. I ask'd whose child it was; and I observed some confusion in the good woman's face at this question; for she had persuaded me that her son had newly had the small-pox, and had denied me the sight of him, under pretence that it might give offence to me: but I observed no disorder in the child, and therefore insisted upon having it brought to me.—But alas? How surpriz'd was I to observe the very picture of my husband in his face! I was not able to speak one word to the child, but kissed it, embraced at the same time his mother, and stept immediately into our coach. The old Count finding me thus confounded, did not leave me long in perplexity, but acquainted me with the whole secret; which he did in such a pretty and open manner, as demanded my closest attention. The woman, said he, which you have seen, was a former mistress of your husband's: but if this confession gives you any offence, pray be not angry at my son, but at me, who was the occasion of it. He was brought up by me in such a particular manner, as perhaps in several respects will seem strange to you. My son was obliged to love and honour me, not only as his father, but also as his friend: he never need to fear me, but when he concealed any thing from me; which made him to be always open to me; and I had by this means an opportunity to draw him from many follies before he committed

mitted them, at least before he contracted a habit of them. I knew that my son loved a certain young woman whom my sister had taken into her house as an orphan, and to whom she had given the same education with that of her only daughter, because the child shewed a great liveliness and forwardness in her learning; and he had never made a secret of this to me. When he sat out for his travels, he besought me, that I would permit him to take this woman with him abroad to be his companion, under the name of an acquaintance: and I, either too weak to deny him such a request, or on purpose to save him by this means from those extravagancies into which youth is apt to fall, gave my consent that she might follow him: and this is the very woman whom you have seen, and who passes for a widow. She is a person of excellent qualifications; and I have settled 10000 crowns upon her, that she may marry whenever she pleases. I have also set apart something towards the education of her son: but if this woman gives you offence, I will soon assign her a place at my estate in Livonia, where I will take care that she shall live to her own Satisfaction.

After such an account of my husband's former mistress, who would not have thought that I should break out into anger and hatred to her: No!—I loved her nevertheless; and that love moderated my jealousy, which otherwise might have reigned the supreme passion of my soul: all I did was that I begged of the old Count to see her well married, and to remove her from her present place of abode. In the mean time

we pursued our journey, and I had the satisfaction to see my husband when I came home. And now notwithstanding I was very well assured of his sincere love to me, yet could I not be at rest, till, behaving myself indifferently upon some trifling occasion, I forced him to draw a secret from me with which I would not part, without putting him to some uneasiness. He was astonish'd when he heard it, and was sorry that his father had been so inconsiderate to carry me to a place which might have proved very prejudicial to our mutual love. However he immediately gave orders to remove this woman and her son; and allowed her every thing suitable for the maintenance of both: all which was done in less than a week's time. What greater proof of his fidelity could I desire? It was impossible to hate him one moment on account of this affair, tho' I could not esteem myself free from all uneasiness.

He told me, that he should certainly have married this woman, had the Court and his father not been against it. In fact, she deserved such good luck as much as I; for I did not find wherein I was preferable to her, unless in being born of noble blood; and how trifling is this preference, if rightly considered! She had not thrown herself away out of wantonness—Matrimony was the expected reward for yielding herself and her heart to him.—The Count's father had approved his son's choice; and she knew the noble heart of her lover. A woman whose love has engaged such circumstances, ought rather to be pitied than reproached. To assure me still more of the alienation which was

between

between their love, my husband related an action really worthy of Carolina; which shall be the name of my husband's former mistress, through-out the sequel of this history.

As soon as she perceived that he could not obtain permission to marry her, without the hazard of his fortune, and the loss of the favour of the Court, she voluntarily quitted at once her right to his heart. He shewed me her letter, written to him upon that head; the generous contents whereof were so affecting to me, as to put me upon doubting, whether I could have behaved with the like greatness had I been under her circumstances. The letter runs thus.

My Lord,

• I Hear that you are very much thwarted in
• your resolution to declare me your Lady:
• I pity you, because I know that you love me,
• and that it cost you as much to banish the
• thoughts of your promise to me, as it does me
• to quit my claim to your noble and generous
• heart: however, since I must lose you, my
• Lord, I will lose you honourably. To be brief,
• my Lord, I freely sacrifice my love and satis-
• faction to your happiness, and distinguish'd
• condition; and abandon the thoughts of ever
• becoming your wife: you are free, and at li-
• berty to make what other choice you please; I
• am contented, if I do but find that you make
• a happy one, and that you meet with that satis-
• faction which I should have endeavoured to
• afford you. Heaven knows that these are my
• true wishes; and whence could the sincerity of
• such

such wishes arise, unless from loving you? I
reproach you with nothing.—It is evident to
me, that you have fully answered your pro-
mise; for I am convinced, that you would have
fulfilled it, provided it were in your power:
neither shall I ever accuse myself of having
been too weak. I have been yours, yet not
without a previous assurance of being openly
declared as such, at some proper time; and
thus I never made a sacrifice of my virtue to
you; the remembrance of my love, therefore,
will always afford me the greatest comfort, let
my future fate seem as hard to the world as it
will. Enter into matrimony, my Lord, and
for the future never think of me otherwise
than of a friend: this reward, I think I deserve,
farewel, my Lord, and assign me a place at one
of your estates, where I and my son may live
in tranquillity. Give yourself no further trou-
ble about me; I abide by my resolution, to
shew you, that I prefer your fortune to my
happiness. Farewel my dear Lord.

Such were the generous sentiments of Carolina, to whose resignation I owe the possession of the Count. After this letter they had one interview more, and then she went to the place where I had seen her. My husband assured me that it was a year and a half since he had spoken to her last; and I would willingly have afforded her the satisfaction of conversing with him once more before she departed for Livonia, if I could have thought it adviseable.

My Count, in the mean time, doubled his endeavours to please me, tho' heaven knows he
was

was the most endearing, the most tender, and most noble man that can be imagined. He had lived sober and regular before he took to the army, and therefore had not contracted that rough and wild habit which frequently shews itself in gentlemen of martial profession. He was all goodness and humanity, yet stood the domestics in such awe of him, that a wink of his had the effect of a positive command. As to me in particular, he seemed perfectly descending: it was impossible for him to deny me any thing; for he was pleased whenever I gave him an opportunity to grant me a favour: but notwithstanding his most ready acquiescence, in the midst of his fondness to me he knew how to cast such an air of superiority as demanded my highest regard for him; which made me cautious to gratify my inclinations in aught but what I thought would be agreeable to him, and what he himself would have urged me to with the force of command, if he had expressed himself in that haughty style.

In his occupation, he was the most regular man, without confining himself to set times; for he loved neither a sedentary nor hurrying life, but did business at proper times, and in moderation; whence he was always lively and alert, because he never fatigued his spirits with dull and vain labour. Whilst my husband had been upon his travels, he had purchased several large parcels of choice books, which being put up along with his former ones, made a very handsome library: here we spent many hours with the greatest satisfaction; and here I became sensible of

of the advantage I had reaped from being educated among my uncle's children: for being well acquainted with Latin and French, and not a stranger to Italian, I could amuse myself in a most agreeable manner with reading authors in those different languages: but never did I think myself more happy in my retreats to the library, than when I had my husband by my side, who had the art of chusing such books for me, as gave me a true relish of literature. And tho' I was not always ready in giving my judgment of an author's excellency, or wherein he was deficient, yet I had generally the good-luck to join in my husband's opinion. And thus we spent our time in adding every day to our profit and pleasure; for we lived in a very tranquil and private manner, without either receiving or making visits. My husband entertained me, I him; and the old nobleman our father contributed to the joy of us both. This gentleman who was above three-score and ten years old, discharged the functions of six persons. His experience in learning, and his contented and honest heart made him always appear gay and lively in conversation; and I believe that in three years time he had not one hour's uneasiness of mind; for so long had my husband and I liv'd with him when he died. But, how exemplary and instructive was this man's end! His illnes proceeded from a swelling in his legs, which communicated itself upwards to such a degree, that it was above the skill of the most able physicians to stop its course: but, notwithstanding the quick approaches of death, our christian hero behaved

with the utmost calmness and composure. Finding his malady to increase, he asked the doctor how long he thought he still might have to live: according to my best Observations, answered he, your Lordship's life can't last above three days longer. That's well, reply'd the old Count—God be thanked that I am gone through my pilgrimage so well—still three days left of that life concerning which I am to give an account to my Creator! I think I cannot spend my remaining hours more profitable, than by my own steadiness to shew to those who are about me how easy and how happy it is to die, for one who has lived an honest and virtuous life. Upon this he ordered all his servants to be called up: and as they stood before him, he praised their honesty and fidelity in their different posts; and intreated them to have virtue always before their eyes: I have been your Lord and master, said he to them; but death takes off all difference between you and me: I am going into a world where you and I shall be equals; and where you and I shall be equally rewarded for our good deeds. Farewell, my children; whoever amongst you has a love for me, and is willing to please me once more before I die, let him give me his hand, as a promisory token that he will observe those lessons and rules which I have always endeavour'd to cultivate in you for the advancement of a happy course of life: and then he ordered a certain sum of money to be given to every one. His chief Employment of this and the next day consisted in sending for the greatest part of his tenants, to whom he talked in the same

same tender manner as he had done to his servants. To such as had had money advanced by him to put themselves in a way of living, and were in arrears to him, he returned their bonds and notes; and gave them leave besides to ask him some favour which should consist with reason. He had very few of his tenants who were poor; by reason that he afforded them his aid and assistance seasonably, and did not defer his bounty till the close of life: no wonder therefore if they were seized with the highest sense of sorrow and concern, for the loss of him who had been a father to them instead of a landlord. After these good people had left him, weeping and lamenting for the loss of him, the Count asked, whether there were still some in his house who had not taken leave of him? I answer'd, that I did not know of any unless the soldiers who waited on my husband. Let them likewise come in, said he; they are no less dear to me than the former: these people in particular ought to know what is death, because they are more exposed to his power than others. Accordingly they were sent up to him; and they entered the room with a hardy and martial air: but the old Count had scarce begun to talk to them, before their bold looks changed, and they were moved to shed abundance of tears. He ask'd them, how long they had served? And he was informed, that most of them had borne arms about twenty years. O! said the Count, you deserve to taste the sweets of an easy life; for you have suffered hardship enough in so many years. I will speak to my son to give you your discharge:

and to allow you double the pay which you now have, even as long as you live, for your subsistence : moreover, I permit you to settle in one of my villages, without paying either rent or taxes. This was no small comfort to those poor men, who shewed their gratitude for all these favours ; and one of them in particular did a singular service to my husband afterwards.

The good old Count, having fatigued his spirits this day very much, and night drawing nigh, turned to his physician, and asked him once more about the time of his departure ; and heard with the greatest undauntedness the doctor tell him, that his vital spirits would cease to act in less than twenty-four hours. Upon this he desired some food to be brought him ; of which he took part, drinking with it a glass of wine. Good God ! (began he) how well this goes down : I eat as heartily now as I did fifty years ago : but had I not lived regular and temperate, my nutrimental vessels would not be now in a condition to afford me that sweetness which at this very time I enjoy in my food. Now (continued he) will I refresh myself with some hours rest against my setting out for the new world.

Accordingly he composed himself, and slept three hours. Being awaked, he sent for me, to look for a manuscript, bound up in the manner of a printed book in his bureau. This contained the transactions of his life for the space of forty years backwards ; which he desired I would read to him ; and which lastest to break of day. When I had read it through, he ardently prayed to God, and in an ecstatic manner thanked him

him for all the blessings which he had bestowed upon him in this world ; beseeching him to grant, that in the world to come he may be a true professor of those virtues of which he had been an emulator during his transitory life. He then sent for his son ; who entering and standing by my side, the departing Count embraced us both and began to weep. These tears, said he, are the first which I have shed in forty years, and more : they are not, however, tokens of concern or fear, but of my love and affection. You have made my life pleasant ; but the happiness which I expect after death, makes my leaving you the more tolerable. Let your love to each other be sincere, and enjoy the life which Providence has given us for our satisfaction, and for exercising ourselves in virtue.

After this he gave me some rules concerning the education of my children, if God should bless us with any : and whilst he was thus occupied and concerned about the welfare of his offspring, he expired.

Upon the decease of my husband's father, we lived several years, chiefly at our country seat, with the greatest satisfaction. At last he was called to Court, and I followed him. I had scarce made my appearance there, but was highly esteemed and admired. It seem'd none was more handsom, none more polite, and none more perfect than me : the many addresses which were made me, and the soothing speeches which filled my ears, put me into such confusion that I did not know how to recover myself. To my greatest mortification, my husband received orders to

march, and I was to stay behind. It was said, indeed, I should soon follow him, but it was three months before I saw him again. I stood now in need of all the philosophy which I had learned of my uncle, my husband, and his father, to keep me from becoming vain and proud: the honour which was shewn me every where was a very dangerous snare to a young, and (as people would have me be) beauteous woman, who never before had frequented with courtiers.

A certain Prince of S—, who was actually married, and therefore could have no honourable views in flattering me, took advantage of my husband's absence. He watched every opportunity to shew me the high respect he had for me; and gave me such a preference as might easily have made me suspected by other ladies at court. Sometimes he would venture to speak to me of an inclination and passion, for which I abhorred him; yet had I not power enough to shew myself indifferent to him, on account of the great reverence which he always paid me, and which he had the art to prefix and to join to every part of his speech.

I really was as honest and as virtuous as woman can be; but, I believe, not grave and serious enough in my deportment to this Prince; which made him perhaps suppose that he might venture to use bolder steps with me. He happened to visit me one afternoon, without sending me previous notice of his coming; and he soothed and courted me in a very genteel manner: but perceiving him bold enough to use some liberty to me, I stopped him: permit me, noble Prince,

Prince, said I, to send a Messenger to your consort, and to acquaint her that you are with me; which will perhaps procure me the happiness of her company also. There is no occasion for it, answered the Prince; my consort is as much in my thoughts as if she was personally here: so is my husband to me, interposed I, although he is in the fields. Upon this he made a slight compliment, and left me: but how revengeful this man behaved to my husband on account of my shunning the former's illicit designs to me, will appear from what follows.

Not long after this my husband returned from the army; but had not been many days at home, before he was forbid the Court by a messenger sent to him for that purpose. This was done by the instigation of the Prince of S—, and was the first specimen of his vengeance for having disappointed him in his amorous expectations. However, the loss of the favour at Court did not much affect us: we retired directly into the country; and I told my husband, without hesitation, what had passed between the Prince of S— and me, during his absence: and as my circumspection to the Prince of S— had worked the displeasure of the Court on my husband, I begged of him to forgive me for not having used other expedients. I am very well contented with my misfortune, was my husband's answer; proceed to offend me by your virtue, and you shall have my thanks for it as long as I live. I foresaw it, that the Court would prove dangerous to you; and I imagined, that at your first appearance there you would be admired, and not

be able to withstand the vollies of praises and flatteries which are discharged upon new comers among that polite company : but after all, I look upon my disgrace as a proof that I am possessed of a loving virtuous wife.

In the mean time we lived at our country seat as happy as ever, had not the loss of our deceased father frequently invaded the repose of our mind : to supply therefore the want of him in some measure, my husband prevailed upon Sir R— to live with us. He was still a young Man, but served in large companies for nothing else than to fill up a vacant chair ; for he was like dumb and speechless when he found himself among a number of people ; whereas in a conversation of three or four Persons he was the most agreeable companion. His knowledge which he had gathered from reading the best of authors, was extraordinary, and his civility of as high degree as his friendship ; and notwithstanding his dull looks, he was of a composed and serene mind : he was not a man who refused to join with others in taking lawful diversions ; but to me it seemed that he had more satisfaction in seeing others receive pleasure from such diversions, than he had in the diversions themselves. His wishes were, to see all men judicious, and all judicious men happy : hence it was that he took no fancy to large companies, because he observed among them much affected civility, as well as too much dissimulating, and too much guarding one's self in speaking with freedom. In all his dealings he did not discover the least inclination to self-interest ; and as

to arriving to honours and fortune, he shewed almost a too great indifference. He hated flatterers and sycophants worse than his open enemies ; for he was of opinion, that they were more hurtful to open faith and honesty than all the heretics and freethinkers are to true Religion. It was a pleasure to him to help a person of indifferent circumstances, rather than to oblige one who was accounted to be a man of wealth ; and when he was asked, why he would act so contrary to the common method ? his answer was, I fear the rich man will be ready to reward me for obliging him, and by accumulated returns make me a slave to his humour, and a defender of his ill-grounded arguments and assertions. He had a footman who in honesty and good manners excelled the generality of his degree. One time, in our presence, he asked his master, whether he had any further commands for him ? to which Sir R— replied, you simpleton, do you think that you have no other business in the world than to wait upon me, and to follow my directions ? or do you imagine that you are to die as ignorant as you were born ? If you have nothing to do, sit down and contemplate what it is to be a man : this will be sufficient to employ all your thoughts. To assist him in which, Sir R— gave him proper books to read ; and when he was undressing his master, he obliged his servant to give him an account how he had spent the day, and what he had read. He who is ashamed, said Sir R—, to convey true knowledge and virtue to any one because he is of a mean station, such a one does

not deserve to live. This is the true character of Sir R—; and as he was a man of great integrity, my husband had a fraternal love for him; and we never concluded upon any thing of consequence without first consulting him.

About this time my husband received a marching order, because Sweden was engaging in a war with the crown of Poland: and here I may date the commencement of the disastrous revolutions of my life: he was detached to take a strong pass well guarded by the enemy; but because he had not sufficient forces to sustain the attack, he miscarried, and lost not only the greatest part of his men, but was also wounded himself; so that it was thought that the Prince of S— who commanded in chief, had fixed upon him to go upon that dangerous enterprize with a view to destroy him. In short, my husband was brought before a court marshal, where he was accused of cowardice, and sentenced to be beheaded. Good God! how shocking was it to me when I received a letter from him, which contained the following lines:

‘ **F**arewel, my dear, for ever farewel! It is
‘ the will of fate that I should die; and
‘ tho’ this does not befall me without previous
‘ apprehension, yet would the manner of my
‘ death be frightful to me, were I to set a greater
‘ value upon worldly honours than that of a
‘ good conscience. I am adjudged to die by the
‘ sword, because I have not used it with more
‘ courage in defence of my native country; tho’
‘ God knows that I am innocent, and the five
‘ wounds

‘ wounds I have received in that engagement
 ‘ can witness how I have acquitted myself in my
 ‘ duty. But it is the Prince of S— who thinks
 ‘ himself offended by your virtuous repulse of
 ‘ him, who is doubtless the contriver and cause
 ‘ of my immature death. Forgive him, that he
 ‘ thus tears your husband from you; which how-
 ‘ ever gives me less concern than if he had made
 ‘ a more disgraceful conquest of your virtue.
 ‘ Farewel, my dearest, and pray, that at my
 ‘ last moments I may be as resolute as I am at
 ‘ present. My wounds are very dangerous:—
 ‘ would to God they would prove mortal, that so
 ‘ I may not be exposed like a criminal.

‘ Within five days from the date hereof I
 ‘ shall be no more.—Acquaint my honest friend
 ‘ Sir R— my last wishes to him, I know he
 ‘ will not forsake you in your misfortune. I
 ‘ have petitioned the King to leave you in full
 ‘ possession of my estate; but I doubt whether he
 ‘ will grant me that favour. Be of good cheer,
 ‘ my dear—Retire whither you please, so that
 ‘ you but escape the persecution of the Prince.
 ‘ Farewel! Oh, that the fifth day was come!
 ‘ Why must I fall a victim to my enemies! But
 ‘ who can withstand fate?—I will meet death
 ‘ with intrepidity. Once more, my dearest, fare-
 ‘ wel—This moment I find myself very much
 ‘ out of order—Perhaps I shall die to-day of my
 ‘ wounds. The Chaplain of my regiment comes
 ‘ to visit me—I will intreat him to take care that
 ‘ this letter may come safe to your hands. Take
 ‘ courage—I shall ever love you, and am sure
 ‘ to meet you in the world to come?’

It is impossible for me to declare my distraction and confusion, after reading this letter; for we are never in more want of words, than when we endeavour to express the sufferings which interrupt the sincere and passionate dictates of our hearts. I can only say that for several days together I was like a person thunder-struck. All the arguments of religion and reason were insufficient to afford me comfort; but rather increased my affliction, because they had no effect upon me. The day on which my husband was to suffer death, was come, and I spent it in tears and prayers; and in that distressful juncture I more than once felt the cold stroke of the instrument which was to take away my dearest husband's life. None did I perceive about me more assiduous to assist me in my calamity, than Sir R—that friendly comforter: he moaned and lamented my misfortune in a most compassionate manner; and his deep sorrow and concern for me, at last, prevailed with me to hearken to his consolations, which were more nervous than to be slighted, even in despair.

Before a week was pass'd, my husband's position brought me word that his master had died of his wounds three days before the time appointed for his execution. This account, tho' very melancholy, nevertheless afforded infinite satisfaction to me. Then he died of his wounds like an hero! was my first exclamation: then he did not behold the shocking preparations which precede a forcible and untimely death, and are even worse than death itself; was my next observation. I asked, whether he had been decently

cently buried? He answered, that this by no means could be done; because that very night the enemies took possession of the village where a battalion guarded my husband, and forc'd them to quit their posts very precipitately. In this confusion, the postilion himself, as he informed me, narrowly escaped being taken; but that the chaplain of my husband's regiment had afterwards found means to dispatch him back to me with this relation, and some of my husband's jewels.

The chaplain himself had written to me, and in the name of my husband advised me to leave Sweden with all the speed I could, to escape the vengeance of the Prince, and to be out of the reach of his importunate solicitations. The order for seizing upon our estate and effects, as I was inform'd, had been signed even before my husband's death. I therefore resolved at once to retire, and intreated Sir R— to accompany me. At home we gave out, that we intended to make a journey to one of our estates which was at some distance from our residence; and to give the less room for suspicion, we took nothing with us but a hand trunk, in which were about 1000 ducats, besides some small golden utensils and jewels; for our ready cash my husband had advanced for the service of the crown. All our silver plate and every thing else we left behind us, and, attended by the said postilion, and Sir R—'s servant, we hastened to quit Sweden; and scarce had we passed the boundaries of that kingdom, before we were informed, that my husband's properties had been seized upon, and that I had been traced several miles.

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We were now in Livonia, but I could not count myself safe there : the Prince was resolved to have me in his power : my uncle who had conducted me to Sweden, was dead ; and I did not know what country to chuse for my residence. All the recourse I had, was to my trusty guide and assistant Sir R—, who advised me to go to Holland, because he had friends at Amsterdam ; and he assured me I would like the country. Here, said he, you may spend a year or two, to see what turn affairs in Sweden will take : who knows but by intercession and petitioning you may have the good luck in time to be restored to some of your husband's lands and chattels ?

Indeed, the apprehensions of falling into a revengeful Prince's hands, made me think more favourable of foreign dominions, than of my native country, and therefore consented without further deliberation to go to Amsterdam ; but I wished that my husband's former mistress might accompany me thither. We were about 18 miles from her, thinking that she still lived on the premisses which my husband had assigned to her in Livonia : Sir R— therefore set out for the place, to inquire after her ; but he was not gone long, before the postilion came to tell me, that he had seen Carolina at church, in the village where I kept myself private, but that he had not spoken to her. I dispatched him therefore back again, and in a few hours I had the satisfaction to see her at my lodging. It was now eight years since I had seen her ; and I observed she had lost some of her alluring features, but not

not the least in her agreeableness and conversation. I then gave her a detail of my unhappy fate, and asked her, whether she would go to Amsterdam with me? She shed abundance of tears at my misfortune, and about the love which I still had for her. You treat me with too much kindness, madam, said she: you shew me the greatest favours, tho' you might perhaps find cause to hate me: I count it a great unhappiness, proceeded she, that I cannot attend you at present; because it is now a year since I changed my habitation, and ever since I have laboured under a great sickness; and you may easily perceive by my looks, that it is impossible for me to venture upon such a long journey with you; in the mean time I promise, upon oath, that nothing in the world shall keep me from coming after you, provided I have my health again: and to convince you the more of the sincerity of my promise, I will give you my son with you, if you do not think him troublesome to you. The money which your husband's father allowed me for the maintenance of myself and the child, I have laid out in buying a small farm in this village, which I offer to you, not only for your abode, but also to make it your property: would to God you could abide with me, undiscover'd, how happy would we live together! The desire of serving you, would be a means to restore my health and spirits.

I ventur'd to visit her at her little farm; where I found nothing that made a shew, either of richness or superfluity; but every thing appeared in excellent order, and convenient, which sufficiently

sufficiently shewed the refined taste and genius of the occupier. In her back parlour, I saw a very large collection of fine books, which she modestly told me, belonged to her son, tho' I knew very well that they were for her own use. They were almost all french and swedish authors which my husband used to value, and I therefore could easily guess who had been the collector of them, and to whom she was indebted for her relish to reading. Under her looking glass hung the portraiture of my husband. As soon as she perceived my eyes upon this dear remembrancer, she took it down, and made me a present of it; and at the same time told me, that it was her own performance; for she was well skilled at painting in miniature. But I thought it too unreasonable to deprive her of a piece, which she had taken the pains to execute in the best manner, and was designed to perpetuate the memory of a person who had been dear to her.

Her son was almost thirteen years of age, and was an accomplish'd and lively youth. He had been under the tuition of an able man, ever since his mother's settling in Livonia; but had now been some weeks at home, on account of her sickness, which had been so desperate as to threaten her life. Among several other things which she told me in this conversation, she confessed that she had had also a daughter by my husband, of whom she had been brought to bed in Holland, and that she left the child with her brother, partly at his own request, and partly for private reasons: but the said child died in its sixth year, as she had been informed by a letter from her brother:

brother : I could wish, concluded she, that you would chuse his house for your abode, for he lived in a very pleasant situation at the Hague, when I was there : but I do not know his present circumstances, because I have not heard from him a long while, at least not since he became a bankrupt ; and therefore am not sure whether he has retrieved his fortune, or no.

Whilst we were passing our time in this manner, Sir R— returned from his journey which he had made in vain ; and it was high time for us to quit a place, where we could no longer live in secrecy : but before we were well prepared to set out for Holland, Sir R—'s servant happened to die suddenly of a malignant fever. This honest man, finding his dissolution drawing nigh, in taking farewell of his master, presented him with 100 ducats. This money, said the faithful dying man, I have saved in your service, my ever-honoured master, and by your liberality ; and I am glad that I can return it to you again : for it is owing to your generosity, to your instructions, and to your good example, that I can die with pleasure and in tranquillity ; and my only wish is, that you may have another servant, in whom you can confide. This shews, that even men of the meanest station may be cultivated to excellent advantage, provided we do not regard them as servants and slaves only, but as fellow-creatures who are committed to our care, and are born to the same general purposes with us. Having taken her son under our care, we left Carolina, who promised to follow us as soon as possible, after she should have sold her

little

little farm. In the mean time we arrived safe in Amsterdam, where Sir R— was informed that his uncle was dead; but that his daughter was still living and well settled. As soon as she saw Sir R— she knew him again, for (as I have mentioned above) he had been in Holland before, at which time she had seen him. She received us very kindly, and her husband, who was a judicious and obliging man, entertained us in the most handsome manner. I discovered myself to them, and desired that they would not only conceal my being a person of quality, to others, but that also themselves would not take notice of it, and consider me no more as a Countess, but as their unfortunate friend. They had already heard of my husband's fatality in the public papers; and I found, that tho' I should have had no qualifications to attract the affection and esteem of these people, yet my misfortune was enough to recommend me to them: I even learned, that a great disaster has almost the same operation with some people, as high fortune has with others. We are counted great, because we have suffered and lost very considerably; and our misfortune is looked upon as meritorious as our exaltation, which we often ascribe to our perfections, tho' we have contributed very little, if any thing, to our own success. In short these good people treated me with as much respect and civility, as if I had been their near relation. They offered me a part of their house for my use, but I contented myself with two chambers: and lest I should become chargeable as well as troublesome to them, I declared my intention to

Swedish Countess of G*. 12/43

to Sir R—, that I was willing to turn my jewels into cash, and put it into the hands of his cousin to trade with. He approved of my resolution, and at the same time told me, that for his part, he had done that already with the money which his deceased servant had bequeathed to him. Accordingly my landlord sold my jewels for 12000 crowns, and advised me to put them into his trading stock; where I should have a full dividend of the produce which should arise, in proportion to my capital. I desired of him, not to give himself the trouble of keeping an account with me; but that I should be glad if he would accept of the interest of that money, towards the charge of keeping me, and my two travelling companions.

My fluttering spirits began now to compose themselves again; for here I lived in security and great satisfaction. Sir R— too began to be more cheerful, and pleased himself with the thoughts of having brought me to a place which afforded me that contentment: and because he had not wherewithal to employ himself, he took Carolina's son under his inspection, and bestowed as much care on him as was possible, for a man who takes delight in communicating and conveying knowledge and good principles to his inferiors. Such noble views would certainly raise jealousy in great men, to many whom they look upon much below them, and are not taken notice of, did they know the reward which the latter acquire for their laudable and noble actions, by having their memory honoured and preserved, as well by those who are witnesses to their ac-

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ti ns, as by such as have profited by them : for Sir R— instructed our young man, not only in different languages, but also in arts and sciences ; and particularly in the important points of religion and morality ; and in matters where he was not explicit, his conduct and good manners were sufficient for our youth to take example by. Thus the scholar became of a similar behaviour with the master ; and rewarded his trouble by early improving in wisdom and goodness. As for my part, I spent my time mostly in studying, if a woman may be permitted to say so of herself, without vanity. I commonly bestowed one hour in the day upon our young scholar, and endeavoured to perfect him in such deportments, as young men are more apt to learn from our sex, than preceptors of their own. I tried to moderate his fiery and violent temper of youth, by my seriousness and gravity ; I took care to keep him always at a distance ; and acted in several characters to him, that he might not become too familiar, but always discover something new in my conversation with him. Besides employing myself thus with our young spark, I passed many an hour with my landlady's daughter, who was a girl about eight years of age. I taught her to speak French ; and without taking any extraordinary pains with her, I brought her up to drawing, embroidery, and singing : in brief, I enjoyed a very happy and tranquil life : my land-lord and his wife chose to be governed by my taste of oeconomy, and they took particular notice of what was pleasing to me, that they might entertain me accordingly : they never introduced

me

me into large companies ; nor interrupted me in my retirements, unless I invited them to a conversation with me: I had no occasion either to command, or to make my request in gratifying myself ; but only to pronounce my choice : I was held for a relation of my landlady's by her domesticks ; and such as did not belong to the family knew nothing to the contrary. In this my disguised way of life, I had the advantage not to be obliged in company to dispute and maintain precedence, on account of that glittering but very troublesome character of being a person of quality. Had I been known to be a Countess, people would not have admired me, but regarded my good qualities as so many necessary properties belonging to my station ; at the most, I must have contented myself with their honouring me only, whereas now I was both honoured and beloved, and every one was fond to converse with me.

I had now lived four years in Amsterdam, and in that time sent several letters to Carolina, to put her in mind of her promise to come to me ; but all to no purpose. However, her absence was of no prejudice to her son, for whose education all possible care had been taken ; but judging him fit by this time to put himself in some settled way of life, several means were proposed ; but none was more acceptable to him than that of soldiery. Sir R— approved of his choice, and told him, that he would be of great service in that station, since well-behaving and civilized persons are no where more wanting, than among uncivilized ones : betake yourself to

the

the army, sir, said Sir R—to him, and let them see, that a man can be intrepid, valiant, and of strict morality, and yet prudent, cautious, and humane withal. As long as religion and a good conscience attends you, so long will you look upon death with indifference; and be prepared for him, without endeavouring to shun him thro' timorousness. This is true heroism. Accordingly we bought him an ensign's place, and he went to his regiment which afterwards was canton'd on the frontiers of Holland.

I come now to one of the most singular occurrences of my life, for which I do not expect to be applauded by persons who aim at greatness, and make no distinction between inclination and passions, and between high birth and rank, but imagine that their consequent operations proceed from one and the same motive. To explain myself here, I must tell my readers, that I was still in the prime of my years, and my graceful looks had not forsaken me; or, if I had lost any, they were only comparable to those lost and fine lines in a picture which indeed vanish, but do not lessen the value of the main work, because they are not missed: and this, I judge, was the reason, that several Dutch gentlemen of great wealth and figure made their addresses to me on honourable terms; but all their assiduities were in vain. And who could blame me, that I who had had such a dear and indulgent husband, should be critical in parting with my love to a stranger? But tho' none of my suitors prevail'd in their overtures, yet their caresles had that effect upon me, to revive the secret remembrance

membrance of love in me. I will, said I to myself in a hurry, chuse a man myself for a husband, rather than be longer plagued by these Dutchmen. This, indeed, seems a far-fetch'd reason for my resolution to marry again; but at that time I thought it a very plausible one: I also considered, that I had mourned as much as a woman can for the loss of a dear and loving husband; but that all my grief would not bring him back to my embraces; and that if I should not cease lamenting him, I might give way to a melancholy habit, which might destroy my life, without adding to the honour of his memory. Such was my soliloquy, and such were the arguments which my heart prompted me to support as a plea for my second marriage.

One afternoon it happened that Sir R— came into my room, to inform me of an affair which I had desired him to enquire into: having made his report, he sat some moments silent, and then on a sudden broke out with, well, madam, have you concluded upon marrying again? Why, sir, answered I, would you advise me to marry again? Yes, replied he; but not before I see that your own heart has advised you to it. You know my uprightness, madam, and you know also, that I comprehend nothing under the title of happiness, but what one either wishes for, or chuses voluntarily. Among the several men which lay siege to your heart, none pleases me better than the Heer vander H—; not because he is a man of learning, but on account of his engaging qualities and evenness of temper; yet I would not have you depend on my judgment:

I regard him in the same light as I believe you do, and love him as a friend and useful member in conversation, and as such you may delight in his company too, yet not approve of him for your husband. Our heart often is of such a nature, that it withdraws our love and affection for a person, at the very instant when we propose to become most intimate with him. Perhaps among these gentlemen some one may seem to you more deserving of your love than another; and his peculiar talent get the ascendant over you, to quicken your thoughts of quitting your lonesome widowhood; and yet admit the former, as an acquaintance, into your company.

I returned Sir R— my compliment for having delivered himself in this open manner, and assured him, that I would take his advice in an affair of such importance, whenever I should find that I was advised by my own heart to change my condition. But pray, Sir R—, continued I, how happens it that you have hitherto delighted in a single life, and shewn no inclination to marry? O! madam, replied he, I should certainly have resolved upon marriage before now, had my circumstances and passion of love prompted me thereto; love, and philosophical amusements, are no adversaries with me: a conjugal life, if attended with true contentment, is without doubt the only state man can chuse for his happiness. Shew me but a person, madam, whom I can like, and who assures you of her wishes to be contracted to me, you shall soon find me ready in preferring a social life to a solitary one: it is every one's duty to make his life

life as easy and comfortable as he can ; and since it is manifest, that this may be obtained by love, we are the more indebted for it to love and marriage. But give me leave, sir, interposed I, to observe, that you have seemed to be very indifferent to our sex as long as I have known you ; how come you to speak so much in praise of love now ? I beseech you, madam, replied he, not to make a mixture of modesty and indifference. I know that love is often as productive of curiosity to a third person as enmity is ; and it is for this reason that I behave always very cautiously, but not with indifference, to the fair sex. I know a Lady, said I at last, that loves you, and I do not believe that you will mislike her ; yet I am not assured whether you will chuse to admit her into the capacity of becoming the intimate object of your love : at which he seemed to be surprized, and asked me ten times over who the person was ? But I kept him in suspense. At last I promis'd him, that I would procure him the sight of her before night ; and then he withdrew to his own apartment. Accordingly, within three hours after, I sent him my portraiture, together with a billet of the following contents ;

“ Such was the likeness of the person who
“ loves you, when she yet was young. At first
“ she thought herself obliged to you by friend-
“ ship and acknowledgment ; but time and
“ your worth have changed these motives into
“ real love—The most unfeigned friendship to

“ my husband has the preference to my heart.
“ —You have dealt with me so generously, and
“ with such probity, as demand of me to love
“ you. Let me have an answer to this in
“ writing; and make no objection on account
“ of your station, since your merits are above
“ that; for what is inequality of condition to
“ people of sense? And as to the vulgar, who
“ cares for them?”

Scarce had Sir R— received my parcel and inspected the contents thereof, but he returned to me, with looks of ecstacy; and this very man who indeed all along (as well in my husband's time, as after his decease) had behaved to me with great civility, without once attempting to flatter me, now discovered his tenderness for me in such a soft and feeling manner, that I must have commenced to love him, though I should never have loved him before. Now, said he, you have given me a right to shew the inmost of my heart to you; and now you have granted me the liberty to confess to you, without offence, what respect and reverence bid me conceal within myself. Heaven is my witness that I never expected to arrive to that happiness which you now have offered me; and though I should have entertained such thoughts, yet that little value I put upon myself would have quashed all my hopes of success—Nothing is now more wanting to complete my contentment, but your convincing me, that you think me not unworthy of you; and then I shall proclaim myself the most happy

happy man living. In short, we both stopt down to our landlady, and acquainted her with what we had agreed upon ; who, as well as her husband, were extremely rejoiced at this unexpected news.

By this time our money had been six years in trade, and had brought in more than the principal was in the beginning ; upon all which together, we two might have lived very contentedly : but our generous landlord would not consent that we should leave him. He kept our money, and treated us, as before, with all the civility imaginable. Thus Sir R— was now become my consort ; or (not to speak in quality terms) my dear husband, whom I loved as tenderly, and with as much sincerity, as I had done the former. In faculties of mind he was equal, if not superior to my first husband ; but in personal appearance he fell short of him. He was a well-shaped man indeed, but he had nothing of that taking air which often meets with advantage, if well display'd at first—No—it was requisite to have seen and conversed with him more than once or twice, before one could find out his worthiness. I shall therefore not maintain that he would have suited every woman's fancy ; it was enough that he pleased me ; and in conversing with him, I found every day fresh reasons to love him. He was near forty years of age, and ever since I had known him, he had nothing altered in his person. His regular and retired way of living preserved him as well in health as in vigour. Who was more happy

than we? We enjoyed ourselves by ourselves; and because we made no boast of our felicity, we enjoyed it without being envied by our neighbours.—We lived without either commanding or obeying—We had no body to account to for our commerce but to ourselves—We had more than we aimed for, and therefore were in a condition to be beneficent to others—We lived in a family who suited themselves to our inclinations; and we resided in the most populous city, as retired as if we had been in a lonesome country village; which was indeed what gave us both great satisfaction—We passed our time in that improving and useful exercise of reading and contemplating—We studied, without a view of being admired for it by others; for we studied at our own option. And, to sum up all, matrimony guarded us against all that might disturb our repose, and perfected us in the art of pleasing each other. We frequently find people who would maintain that the pleasures of a matrimonial life are attended with less ardour than that which results from casual amours; because, as they observe, the love of the former often dwindleth away, instead of increasing: but such people know not what wonders sagacity and caution are able to do in a social life; for they support and promote love, as the heart by its motion causes the circulation of the blood. 'Tis true, that immutable and constant tenderness is such a blessing as cannot be expected always to subsist in people who live in wedlock; nevertheless if love has taken root on both sides,

*Tell me no more, I am dier'd
that Cle's palest counten'ce, pale as
thou, & that least belov'd, the way out
women, you say, are pale & wan +*

17 Decem^r 1816

Swedish Countess of Göthe

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it will abide vivid even to our latest years: our passions indeed, and faculties of body and mind, must yield to advancing age; yet the relaxation of love comes on latest; and he has his full share of satisfaction, who enjoys as much as satisfies his appetite. In short, we loved each other, after a course of years, as closely as if it had been but the beginning of our love: for I would not have my readers think, that we employed ourselves in nothing else but in ennobling our mind, because we studied the sciences—No indeed; I have only been exposing that metaphorical bombast, which I have read, and which only tends to make us tools to the favourite passions of our souls; for I am of opinion, that the corporeal substance is as essential as the soul, to constitute perfect felicity; and whosoever persuades us that he loves the perfection of a person's mind only, he either speaks against his own conscience, or else he does not know what he asserts. Such love as makes cherishing the body its only subject, betrays a superficial and degenerate soul; and such love again which idolizes the faculties of the soul, to the neglect of bodily satisfactions, favours the superstitious notions of hyperbolical scholastics, who would fain be thought of a spiritual essence intirely; and are ashamed of their corporeal substance, though (could they have their wishes) they would part with ten souls, rather than be deprived of the vital parts of their body.

*This always constant when
I come again to the thread of my history, and
once more say, that my husband and I lived as
I like her body you her mind
Who has the better bargain
— Prior*

happy as ever it was possible for a married couple to live. We acquainted Carlson (this was the name of Carolina's son, the ensign) with our marriage, and desired him to visit us as soon as it would suit him; for it was almost the period of four years since we had seen him. He sent us an answer to our letter, and told us, that he was advanced to a lieutenancy; and that fortune had smiled upon him all the while he had been from us; but more so at present; because he had very lately been married to a woman, who upon his account had escaped out of a nunnery.—That indeed he could not come at her descent, by reason that she had been in a cloister, ever since the fixth year of her age; and that she herself did not know her parents, but had gone by the name of Mariane, without any family appellation; yet that, notwithstanding she should be of the meanest extraction, she was such a deserving person, that he could wish, upon her account, to arrive to an exalted station, that she might share with him in the honours: for Carlson had no further knowledge of his own birth, than that he was the son of my first husband's steward, who had died before he was able to remember. He intreated us withal in the most pressing manner, that we would take a turn to the Hague, in the vicinity of which place he was quartered. But this specious account, instead of being welcome to us, gave us some uneasiness; for though we did not doubt, that this marriage was attended with sufficient love, yet were we concerned, lest they should have been too precipitate in their amours.

amours. In the mean time we sent him some hundred ducats, to equip himself suitable to his rank, and promised to see him, as soon as the season and my condition would permit me; for I had been brought to bed of a daughter. Accordingly in the spring we went to the Hague, and not above three miles from thence we found Carlson and his spouse, both behaving so as gave us sufficient reason to be confident that they were deserving of each other. Mariane was a woman of extraordinary beauty, and fair complexion, with a full eye inclining to a cerulian cast, and such languishing looks, as she seemed industriously to conceal from strangers, lest her countenance should betray the extreme tenderness of her heart: and admitting that the other parts of her visage had not been of a most perfect order and proportion, yet her eyes alone would have commanded her admission among beauties of the first class. Of her natural genius I shall ~~not~~ say much, for she had been educated in a nunnery; nevertheless the innocence and uprightness of her heart would have made ample amends for a less degree of sparkling wit than she was really mistress of: a timorousness which she had attracted in the monastery, had not yet left her, tho' even that timorous carriage was so suitable to her innocence, that it was more becoming than blameable in her; I will even go further, and say, that she was admired for her timorousness; as it happens in several circumstances, that a blemish sets in a stronger light the beauty of a well executed performance.

It is in vain for me to search for words whereby to describe the sweetness and tenderness which she expressed to her husband: he who would have an idea hereof, must represent to himself a most engaging, brisk, and graceful man, (for such a one was Carlson); and a woman of a natural tenderness, who from her infancy had been immured in a cloister, and where the passion of love had prevailed the more upon her, because she never had shewn a liking to monastic austerity, nor to the rules and orders of living in constant sterility; and then one may partly guess at the ardent and languishing love of this young woman, I was highly pleased with the choice which Carlson had made, as was my husband, and both of us took such a delight in seeing this pair enjoy themselves with the greatest contentment, that we tarried longer with them than we should have otherwise done. We therefore sent to Amsterdam for money, and we staid a whole year, and longer, with Carlson; where we wanted nothing but the company of his mother, who some time before had informed us, that she was thoroughly recovered of her illness; and who had lately in another letter informed us, that she was preparing to come to us: we therefore dispatched the postilion (who formerly had brought me an account of my husband's death), to attend her in her journey; but this messenger met her upon the road, and she was with us sooner than we expected her. She appeared to me as if she had grown younger; and the joy which she had at her son's happiness, and my satisfaction,

tisfaction, made her every day more brisk and lively: but (said this honest woman) I am sure my gladness cannot last long, because it is too great. In the mean time Mariane was brought to bed of a daughter; which caused fresh rejoicings; yet the more reason we had to be contented with this Mariane and with her conduct, the more desirous were we to enquire with certainty after her pedigree; tho' after all our vain searches, it remained a secret to us. Mariane had left the monastery privately, out of love for her husband, which made it necessary that we should be very cautious in our inquiries, lest we should have discovered the fact, to the prejudice of her and her husband. We employed therefore some persons in which we could confide, to use their best endeavours in getting some intelligence of Mariane's parents: but they all received for answer, that they were unacquainted as to her birth and education, because she had been brought into the monastery in the sixth year of her age, by a common tradesman, who had deposited a certain sum of money for her education, and had given out, that she was the daughter of a broken merchant, who would not have her brought up in the protestant principles: perhaps, added they, he may have intrusted the abbess at that time with the particulars of his errand; but that she now was dead. In short, we could get no account of Mariane's birth; and if we had applied to the nuns themselves in the monastery, perhaps they might have given us the same, or some less satisfactory answer; con-

sidering how many children are trusted into monasteries, under wrong names, and maintained by unknown benefactors.

At last we resolved to return to Amsterdam, for our circumstances required us to part; only Carolina accompanied us back to the Hague, where she took pains to find out persons who might give her some relation of her brother Andreas: but she could be informed of no more than what she knew before; *viz.* that after his wife's decease he had failed, and was become a bankrupt; but that he was gone on board an East-India ship, to try whether he could retrieve his fortune. We stay'd several days at the Hague, and provided ourselves with money for travelling charges; but when we were upon the point to set out, the merchant who had paid us the money, and whom Carolina had asked concerning her brother, sent his clerk to us, to acquaint us, that a ship was lately arrived at Amsterdam, from the East-Indies, on board of which Mr. Andreas was returned to Holland; and that he had been at the merchant's house, not many hours ago. This news was too important to proceed in our journey, without having first an interview with Mr. Andreas: but, would to God we had never seen him! The next day he came to our lodgings; and Carolina's first question was, why he had been so negligent not to send her a circumstantial account of the death of her daughter, before he went to the East-Indies? What! is Mariane dead? cried Mr. Andreas. What signifies your speaking of Mariane

riane to me? interrupted his sister; I ask you after my daughter Carolina: where is she? Is she alive?—God send she may! I know it, sister, answered Mr. Andreas, her name was Carolina; but, that I might please my wife, and because I had adopted her for my own child, I changed her name of Carolina, and called her after my wife's, Mariane. I will tell you the whole affair, if you will have but patience to hear; and if you promise to forgive me in what you think I have done wrong to the child. My dear wife, you know, died about ten years ago, and Mariane was then so very sick, that I had given her over; but she recovered: about the same time I had the misfortune to fail in my trade, and to become bankrupt; wherefore I was obliged to think of recovering again my fortune, and tried to get it by going to the East-Indies. You know I am a roman catholic; and I assure you that I had a natural love for your daughter, or rather, my adopted child: but, in order that Mariane might be brought up in my religion, and at the same time not be exposed to want, I put her privately into a monastery, situated on the frontiers of the Austrian Netherlands, having first agreed, and satisfied the abbess for taking care of the child; and then I embarked for the East-Indies. I intended yesterday to go to the place to inquire how she does, but I was hindered by some business which obliged me to be here to-day. However, I will set out immediately; for I grow impatient, and want to know, whether she is living, or dead. Come along with

with me, said he to Carolina, it is but a short journey, and in three days we may be back again. Accordingly they took coach, and departed, without any further preparation. In the mean time my husband and I had hardly power to look at each other, and much less courage to speak: a shivering seized all my limbs. At last my husband broke out with, good God, how will this turn out? Mariane in a monastery—and not further off than the Frontiers? What sad relations are these! O the poor, unhappy Carlson! Would to Heaven our supposition may this time prove wrong—Was but Mr. Andreas returned again! or, were he never come back again to Europe—His presence will certainly inform us of a most melancholy secret, which otherwise never would have come to our knowledge: will not Carolina be obliged to tear the wife of her son from his arms, to find her daughter again? Such were the dreadful apprehensions which tortured our minds, till Mr. Andreas and his sister were returned; and no sooner were they arrived, but we had the misfortune to find by their looks, that we were not mistaken in our guesses: Carolina was almost melted in tears—She gave no ear to comfort; and her brother, tho' a hardened man else, and tho' he shewed no outward signs of sorrow, yet sat like one thunder-struck; and neither he nor his sister would speak to us for some time: at last we found, that they had been in the monastery, where they had been told, that the Nun, Mariane by name, had been taken into the monastery

nastery in such a year (which agreed with Andreas's time of putting her in), but that about a year and a half ago she had privately left that community, and, according to report, married a young nobleman. What could we do in this case? We were obliged to return to Carlson's quarters, instead of going to Amsterdam.

And now it appeared plain to us four, that the before described Nun could be no other than the wife of Carlson. However, as it is common with heavy and afflicted hearts, to lay hold of subterfuges and contrary suppositions, whereby their fearful apprehensions often are asswaged; so did we in this case: for tho' the report which Carolina and her brother had made of Mariane was sufficient for us to conclude, that our conjectures had some foundation, yet we purposely avoided the sounding the bottom of the affair, and rather endeavoured to make the truth thereof doubtful, that so we might not be deprived of recourse to support as well ourselves as the parties more closely concerned in this perplexity. How! Should I not know my child? my own begotten, child? began Carolina: should it favour me in nothing? said she; tho' the poor woman had not seen her child ever since it was three months old. My husband also was not behind-hand in accounting for the matter: a young nobleman, quoth he — A young nobleman? How could Carlson give himself out for a nobleman? I should think he had too much modesty to pretend to titles to which he has no claim. You judge right, my dear, interrupted I; for had he taken

taken the character of a nobleman upon him, he would undoubtedly have joined his station of an officer to it: perhaps some other child has been taken into the monastery in the same year, whose name has been Mariane. Mr. Andreas, again, who had not been in East-India to improve his philosophy, was of opinion, that nature could not admit of these two to love each other so ardently as those who have no bonds of relation. Such were our speculations whilst we were on the road; and I believe there passed not a minute between us, without arguing, and contradicting each other, till at last, between hopes and despair, we came in view of Carlson's quarters again. We had agreed therefore, to behave very circumspectly in this affair, and to acquaint neither him nor her with the true motive for our return:—we were to tell them, that the great satisfaction which we had of Mr. Andreas's safe arrival from abroad, had given us this opportunity of visiting him again. 'Tis very true, said we jointly, if Carlson's wife should prove to be the suspected Mariane, they would go distracted, were we to open this melancholy scene to them at once—No, interposed I, this must not be done, lest it should occasion her death. In case she should happen to be the true Mariane proceeded I, which Mr. Andreas once put into a nunnery, then I will invite her to Amsterdam, to spend the rest of the summer season with me in that opulent city: I am sure her husband will not be against giving her liberty so to do: and, when once in Amsterdam, it will be time enough then

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to hint the secret to her, till she herself finds out the unfortunate circumstances brought on by her marriage. Then, after she is convinced of her own unhappy condition, that of Carlson's great misfortune must be laid open to him; but he must never see his wife again as long as he lives. This, I think, will be the best and only comfort which we can afford him by way of commiserating his amorous error; and this the rather, because he is well grounded in religion, and gives way to reason. As to the daughter which this unhappy marriage has produced, I will take care to provide for somewhere in the country, that she may not live with her mother, to be the witness of that tender, but now prohibited love of her parents, which had been instrumental to her birth. These considerations and consultations brought us at last to Carlson's quarters, who then happened to stand in his door; and seeing us, came running with full speed, seemingly amazed at our return. We, again, shewed as serene countenances as we were able in our circumstances, and told him, pursuant to our first agreement, that Mr. Andreas, Carolina's brother, who was lately come ashore from the Indies, and whom they had met with at the Hague, had occasioned this second visit. Who was more rejoiced than Carlson! He saluted us most politely, and conducted us to the parlour where Mariane was. But scarce had Mr. Andreas entered the room and seen Mariane, but he embraced her very eagerly, and cried out with a loud voice of affright, Heaven have mercy upon

upon me ! 'tis she ! 'tis she ! O ! I unfortunate man !—I am the occasion of all ! This, indeed, was the first specimen of our circumspection which we proposed to make use of in this affair. Mariane run out of the room distractedly—Mariane was striving to extricate herself from Andreas, who had closed his arms about her neck; and as for me, I had no power left to assist her in her endeavours: Carlson stood as immovable, and asked a hundred times over, what was the matter ? My husband attempted to relate the affair to him, but stopped at every word, without being able to proceed. At last Mariane disengaged herself from Mr. Andreas, and came running to me, desiring that I would tell her the meaning of this lamentable uproar. I began to speak, without knowing what—I begged her pardon—I assured her of my constant friendship for her—I embraced her; and this was all I was able to do. In the mean while Carlson came to take his wife out of my arms, at which I cried out, no : no ! Mariane is not your wife ! Mariane is your sister; at hearing which, Mariane swooned away; which gave a rowzing turn to my spirits, as if a fearful dream had awaked me. However, my husband and I were the first who came to themselves again among us all; upon which we laid Mariane upon a bed, where she recovered from one fit to fall into another; and what contributed still more to these faintings, was her pregnancy, so that she did not come to herself all the rest of the day.

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In the mean time my husband had been with Carolina, whom we had not seen since she run out of the parlour. Were this History designed for a Romance, I might here easily have introduced a scene of Carolina destroying herself either by a dagger, or poison, since she had been long enough by herself to perpetrate suicide: but a theatrical desperation, and a rashness which proceeds from an afflicted, but unadvised mind, have not always the same effects in common life: this is certain, that my Husband had discovered Carolina in the summer house, on her knees, in a supplicating posture. And here I shall not mention any more of what passed that day, but proceed to the occurrences of the next following.

By this time the panic and violent agitations of our distracted minds were somewhat ceased, and melancholy, attended with terrifying consequences, had taken place: the sighs and tears which yesterday had been detained by successive surprizes, flowed now with ease, and we made bemoaning and compassionating each other our comfort. Carlson came to the bed of his Mariane, full of anguish, fear, shame, grief, and sorrow, being restrained from embracing her in the usual manner; and it was a most melancholy sight to observe the behaviour of these two persons: for religion commanded them to change their conjugal love into that which reigns between brother and sister, though their hearts persuaded them they were intitled to pursue the former; because they loved each other in the most

most passionate manner : add to this, that they lived still in the spring of wedlock, and were now obliged at once to break their close alliance : they had never seen or known each other, before Carlson made love to Mariane ; and therefore had not opportunity to persuade themselves, that they were obliged to damp their ardent flame, and to content themselves with a familiarity which is becoming among relations : nature itself declared in their favour, and urged, that nothing could be objected to their love, because they never had regardad themselves as relations, and for that reason could justly claim the liberty of continuing a conjugal life, without interruption. Ah ! dear brother, (were Mariane's repeated exclamations) leave me ! — Leave me, unfortunate husband ! Begin to hate me — I am your sister : but — no — my heart does not tell me so — I am yours — yes, I am yours : matrimony has joined us, — God will not separate us. Her husband was of the same opinion, and harkened to the voice of passionate love, that the law of religion might not prevail over him. He took peculiar care not to call her his sister, but at every interval to pronounce her his Mariane : he was fluent in expressions, but in lamenting he rather exceeded moderation : yet as it was the result of his own heart, it had a most melting effect upon every one who heard and beheld him. Sometimes, in the midst of deploring himself, he called philosophy to his aid, and used such arguments as he was sure were in his favour : he proved, that this marriage

marriage was permitted according to divine institutions, tho' it was condemned by civil authority ; yet all his reasonings came to one and the same end, and served only as so many repeated declarations, that he was lawfully contracted to Mariane ; and that nothing but death should separate them. He wished innumerable times Andreas had been dead, before he opened his lips in the discovery of this innocent transaction : Andreas, again, sat mute, and astonished, like one who expects to hear his sentence of death ; and I believe he would willingly have resigned some years of his own natural life, could that have been a means to restore to this tender couple their former repose and happiness. At last Carolina went to the bed of Mariane, and bid Carlson to withdraw. My dearest daughter ! began she, ah ! have I found you again, that I must disengage you from the arms of your brother ! Would to God I never had been obliged to perform this melancholy office. Perhaps this is a punishment for my—but—it is the will of fate ! Neither of you is guilty of a crime ; — your ignorance in this affair justifies your love, but the certainty of your relation now forbids it : I am the mother to both of you, and as my children I love you most sincerely ; but I shall be obliged to abhor you, in case you persist to prefer matrimony to consanguinity. This speech of Carolina's, tho' indeed it was full of sound reflexions, was still too rough for the panting hearts of her two children ; and too soon delivered to them ; for it raised new despair in both of them :

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my husband, however, found out some other expedient to pacify the rage of their distraction, by making use of such terms as often have the same effect on agitated minds as demonstrated truth. He said it was a case of conscience, and that we were not the fit persons to decide it. Let us leave it to the determination of some able divines, proceeded he; I believe this marriage may still be allowed. This was a seasonable remedy to asswage the anguish of the two wounded hearts, and at the same time to moderate the excess of their fondness. Accordingly they agreed to appeal to some university of note, and to abide by the opinion of its members; not from any persuasion of the unlawfulness of their proceeding, indeed, but in hopes of a public approbation of their desires to pursue the course of that new engagement which they had entered into by their marriage vow. In the mean time we took advantage of their concurrence to our proposals, and encouraged Mariane to follow us to Amsterdam, as soon as her condition would permit it; and comforted her with the possibility of procuring a dispensation from Rome, to remove all the obstacles which should be formed by the different opinions of ecclesiastics. Her husband, we told her, might try to get a furlough for half a year, and then come to spend that time with us. All which was very reviving, and acceptable to our young people. Thus several days passed without our hearing them bemoan and bewail each other; and Mariane recovered so well, that she thought herself

self able to venture with us. But while we were preparing for our journey, Carlson was commanded to repair immediately to his regiment, upon pain of being cashiered, because strict orders were given to march it directly to the place of rendezvous. This unexpected piece of news had a different operation: for it was welcome to Carlson; but to Mariane it caused a fresh sinking of spirits; and scarce had she discovered his compliance with the order, but she reproved him in a most passionate manner, and among other terms of reproach called him a faithless one, who wished for an opportunity to get rid of her. Is it imaginable, that a woman could harbour such thoughts of jealousy, who knew that her husband was her brother?—But what is more capable of surmounting impossibilities than love, and dreams? We saw, with sorrow, that Mariane loved Carlson now as much as ever she had done; and that her heart would admit of no arguments which carried the least tincture of parting with him, tho' Carlson assured her in the most solemn manner, that he still infinitely loved her; but that his readiness to march proceeded from some thoughts which he had, that Providence might have directed it thus, to cut the thread of their intricate union. Perhaps, said he, I lose my life in the fields, then who is more happy than we? Would not death be more tolerable to me than the torment of beholding and of loving you? And would you not rather be forcibly torn from me, than endure the pain of forsaking me by your own consent;

consent ; without ever leaving me at liberty to separate myself from your love ? Have a good heart, dear Mariane ; if I return safe again, it will be an indication that Heaven approves of our marriage ; and if I lose my life, it will be a plain conviction, that you are deprived of a man who should be but your brother, and not your husband. What excellent services doth not slight reasoning produce in certain circumstances ? and how useful is it not often to have the satisfaction of cheating ourselves ? This is plain from Carlson's indifference ; which had so good an effect that it calmed the tempest not only of his own, but also of Mariane's mind : they committed the issue of their concern to Heaven, and promised themselves from that dis-interested tribunal nothing but justice, by which however they meant such a verdict as should be in their favour. In short, they appealed to their own reason, and defended the lawfulness of their marriage so earnestly, that it would have been difficult for the ablest civilians to convince them of the illegality of their proceedings. However, Carlson repaired to his regiment ; and parted as courageously as if he went to win his Mariane in an engagement : and she again behaved not less resolute, and seemed to leave him, upon this occasion, that she might hereafter enjoy him without ever being interrupted in the possession of him. As soon as he was gone, Mariane judging that lonesomeness would occasion melancholy, made no objection to set out with us for Amsterdam, together with her daughter

daughter and mother: but Andreas, who had mended his fortune in the East Indies, stay'd at the Hague to establish himself there again; in which he was assisted by his sister, who gave him the greatest part of the money which she had saved in Germany, and whilst she had been the Count's favorite. Thus we and our company left the Hague, and arrived safe at Amsterdam, where we found our generous landlord well and in his former good circumstances; but because some of us were strangers to him, we told him, that Mariane was Carlson's wife, and Carolina his mother.

We had lived now some months together, in tolerable tranquillity, till we received an account of Carlson's death, with these circumstances, that he had not died in battle indeed; but that a violent distemper which then prevailed in the army, had proved fatal to him. This raised new trouble in our minds, because Carolina, my husband, and I, were much grieved for the loss of him; yet when we reflected upon his marriage, we had reason rather to rejoice than to be sorrowful, considering that nothing could have decided this desperate affair more readily than death: for the opinion of a spiritual court would certainly have gone against their marriage; and Mariane and her husband would have either not submitted to a separation, or else would have lived a most unhappy life, should they have conformed to the tenor of the canon law. Our chief concern therefore was for Mariane; for tho' she trusted to Heaven, yet, as I have

have already mentioned, it was with a view that the result would be in favour of her hopes ; and that it would turn out to their mutual satisfaction : we dreaded therefore to mention Carlson's death to her ; for we expected no less than that it would renew her despair ; yet as it could not be avoided, we desired her to step into our apartment, where my husband had prepared himself to acquaint her with what had happened to her Carlson. Well, Mariane, addressing his discourse to her, do you not guess what I am going to tell you ? I excuse your surprize, since you cannot avoid being surprized. Here is a letter that comes from the camp. Say no more, Sir, interposed Mariane ; I guess already the contents of it :—my husband is dead !—Unfortunate woman ! However, I am contented since not the world, but Heaven has taken him from me : now I see it is not God's will that we should have lived together. But—in what manner did he die ? Was he slain in battle ?

We were astonished at this unexpected moderation ; and we found that we had given ourselves needless pains in collecting such sentences as we thought would have served to comfort her in her melancholy situation ; though after all we doubted whether we might trust to Mariane's present conduct ; who mourned for her husband in silent tears, more than by raving impatience and despondence.

Some weeks after, we received another letter, whose superscription was in Carlson's own hand writing. I can assure my readers, that I was more

more astonished to see that he was still living, than I had been surprized when I heard that he was dead. Good God, did I say to my self, how will this turn out again? Carlson, may be, has left the camp, on account of his illness, or is perhaps quite discharged; if so, then he will soon be with Mariane again. Such were my fears; and my husband and Carolina were no less agitated; Mariane alone was of different sentiments, and could hardly contain herself for joy. The letter was directed to her; yet she did not open it directly—no—her pleasing uneasiness would not give her time to do it; neither would she give it to us to open it for her, but kept it in her hands as a precious parcel, which one would not open till one has satisfied one's self in guessing what might be the value of its contents. At last she broke the seal, and by looking into the letter, found it to be dated several weeks before that which informed us of Carlson's death. In short, it was an epistle in which he took his farewell of Mariane, in the following manner.

Dear Mariane,

‘ **T**IS above four weeks that I have not
‘ been able to know my own state, much
‘ less to acquaint you with my illness, till this
‘ hour. How happy am I to have been sick,
‘ and on the brink of death, without being sen-
‘ sible of either? What should not I have en-
‘ dured all that time upon your account, had I
‘ been master of my reason! Heaven be thank-

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‘ ed for the manner of my dying ! I am quite
‘ wore away ! quite feeble ! And, since I am
‘ come to myself again, I look upon the hours
‘ of my life as so many moments that God grants
‘ me to examine once more the world, and my
‘ soul, and to turn my last thoughts upon fu-
‘ turity. Farewel then, dear Mariane ! Fare-
‘ wel for ever ! Bemoan me not as your hus-
‘ band, but as your brother. Ah ! melan-
‘ choly name !—Conceal our fate to our daugh-
‘ ter, if she lives to grow up ; and, if you can,
‘ banish the thoughts of it yourself. My con-
‘ science does not reproach me for having loved
‘ you, but it reprehends me for not having ceased
‘ to love you as my wife, after the fatal disco-
‘ very that you are my sister. Alas ! how dif-
‘ ferent are our thoughts when death presents
‘ himself, from those which we entertain in a
‘ healthy and prosperous condition ! What does
‘ not reason conceive ; and how much does it
‘ not conceive at the time when our passions are
‘ calm, and infeebled ! Now I feel the approach
‘ of death ; and I am dying in comfort ! But—
‘ not see you again ?—Leave you, dearest Ma-
‘ riane ? and I to die—what terrible emotions
‘ rise in my breast ! Ah ! I can write no farther.
‘ So far did I come half an hour ago—I en-
‘ joy again a share of tranquillity—the glimpse
‘ of life sparkles once more. Farewel, my Ma-
‘ riane ! Salute my mother, and my two generous
‘ friends. My trusty companion Dormund,
‘ whose visits we frequently enjoyed, is at this
‘ time with me, and will not leave me as long
‘ as

‘ as my life continues. If you should resolve
 ‘ to love again, then do not forget that your
 ‘ dying husband recommends him before any
 ‘ one worthy to succeed him. He is to bring
 ‘ you my watch, and your portraiture: the rest
 ‘ of my equipage I have given away among my
 ‘ poor soldiers. I am upon the point of dying
 ‘ —farewel !’

As soon as Mariane perceived that she had mistaken the sense of the beginning part of the letter, and that it had been sent by Carlson to take his farewell of her—she broke out into heavy lamentations; but I shall purposely avoid describing her discomfort, and the bad consequences which it produced, as well to her as to us; because they are attended with circumstances in which we took part, since we were, as I may say, intangled in her difficulties: they were important, indeed, with regard to our own feeling; tho’ it does not follow from hence, that they should be remarkable and moving to the reader: I shall therefore pass over several instances, which otherwise I would have mentioned.

We lived again in tranquillity; and it seemed as if heaven would force riches upon us; for our stock brought in more than we desired; and abundantly more than we had occasion for; and therefore we did not even think of claiming the money which my former husband had advanced, and which was due to me from the crown of Sweden: I was rather pleased to find that I had no occasion to concern myself about that country, which now was quite exhausted and weak-

ened by a long unprofitable war. It was enough for me that I lived in private, and contentedly: I was the wife of an agreeable and judicious man; and I would have changed no more with the first Countess of the Empire than she would have changed conditiens with me: the misfortunes which hitherto had occured to us, we looked upon as preparatives for enjoying the sweetness of succeeding rest. One may almost venture to say, that he who lives in constant happiness, enjoys no happiness at all. 'Tis true, indeed, misfortunes are accompanied with nothing that is pleasing; yet in their course and connexion they incline to the latter; at least they may be compared to medicines which occasion pain to our body, but are the more sanative upon that account.

In the midst of our repose, which now had lasted above a twelve month, arrived Mr. Dornund, Carlson's intimate, and delivered the gold watch, with the portraiture in it, to Mariane, agreeable to the notice which she had in her husband's letter. Mariane, indeed, did know him, from being frequently with Carlson, but we had never seen him before; yet what need had he of any other recommendation, since the very name of being our Carlson's friend was sufficient to make him welcome to us? He was a Dutchman by birth, and a very agreeable person; who had been a staff officer, but had now quitted the service, and proposed to live upon his means, tho' he was still but young. He had not studied; yet by the help of some books, and keeping

keeping good company, had got a turn of wit which was very entertaining in the beginning, but would not last throughout a conversation. He understood several languages, and talked the German better than any of the rest. Thus qualified, he sat down in Amsterdam ; and it was an easy matter for us to guess at his drift : Mariane was his object ; and Mariane, in fact, deserved that any one should willingly quit both the camp and court upon her account. She was still exceeding handsome ; and her features had lost nothing by her adverse fortune ; but that had rather added greatly to the beauties of her mind ; and by conversing with women of quality, she had attracted a carriage which suited her extremely well, and contributed very much to her beauty ; add to that, she was but between eighteen and nineteen years old, and still in the spring of her age. Dormund therefore lost no time nor opportunity to ingratiate himself into her company ; and she, perhaps, might condescend the more readily to give him access, to shew that she honoured the memory of her late husband, by loving his friend : to be short, he got the ascendant of her heart. One time she came to me, seemingly, to import something of great consequence, and made a long preamble, which confirmed me in my opinion that it would be a matter of importance : at last when she was come to the point, it was, madam, would it not have been becoming in us to leave Mr. Dormund the watch which he brought me from my husband, that he might have something whereby

he might remember his dear friend Carlson? I actually believe I should have done it, had it not been that my picture is in it, which might perhaps be differently construed by some. I understood the subject of her harangue to a word, and said, my good Mariane, why would you scruple to give your picture to him who undoubtedly has already got possession over your heart? I find you are willing to please Mr. Dormund; under a pretence of obligation, tho' 'tis love which is at the bottom of it. But, if you will leave it to my management, I will soon make an end of this affair: give me but the watch, that I may have it ready, at the first opportunity to offer it to him; which I shall do without making much ceremony about the matter. Accordingly I performed my part so dexterously, that soon after the delivery of the watch the mutual surrender of their hearts followed: for Mariane was contracted to Dormund, and they lived so happy together, that it seemed as if they were born on purpose to please each other. And tho' Mariane sometimes would be troublesome to her husband, yet it proceeded from such motives as hardly will offend a married man. Her chief fault was jealousy, that hereditary error of our sex. I remember Mariane once came to me, full of grief and concern, crying, and behaving as if she had been under great affliction; and therefore I expected to hear of some dire misfortune that might have happened to her: but, what should it be at last? She cried and sighed at the indifferency with which

which her husband behaved to her; and was ready to charge him with perfidy. I asked her, what grounds she had to suspect him? and then came out this trifling reason, *viz.* that her husband just now had been writing letters: and that she came behind him, and had embraced him several times, in a most tender manner; yet that he had made no return, nor taken notice of her, but had kept on writing, and had looked as if he did not care to see her. God knows, continued she, to whom the perfidious wretch has written! I asked her whether she did not look upon the letters, to find out what might be the subject of them! No—not one word, answered she, except that I observed one to begin with, Sir, who would think that a woman of her sense should have thought this a sufficient reason for jealousy? But, what need I ask such questions? How often does not love exceed the bounds of reason? And when this wrong step is taken, it avails nothing to boast of our good sense and capacity. Disputes and divisions among married people frequently arise from trifling matters; which at first are looked upon as insignificant; but in their course they call our imagination and fancies to their aid, and then form themselves into strong reasons for indifference and jealousy.

Mariane had now lived about three quarters of a year in a state of matrimony, when her husband fell dangerously ill. For the space of two whole months he endured great pains; and it was observed that some uneasiness of mind tormented him as much as his bodily malady: he

often begg'd of his wife for God's sake to leave him; nor could he bear Carolina in his sight, and much less see Mariane's child before him which she had had by Carlson. My husband and I were the only persons whom he desired to be constantly with him, and to comfort him. He wanted to be comforted, tho' we did not know what it was that molested him; neither had we the heart to ask him the reason of his great uneasiness. In the mean time it grew daily worse with him, and his physicians told us, that his case was so desperate, that they were of opinion he could not live much longer. About midnight he sent for my husband and me to come to him immediately; at which time he seemed to us to be in his agony: nevertheless he had the sense to order every one out of the room, that none but we two might be with him; and then he began with broken words to curse himself and his love after a most execrable manner. This astonished us so much, that we could hardly persuade ourselves to stay with him. He called himself the greatest criminal that ever lived on earth. I am, he cried, the murderer of Carlson! With my own hands have I conveyed poison to him, and accelerated his death, that I might become possessed of Mariane. Oh! unfortunate wretch! What justice, and what judgment waits for me!—I am forlorn!—I see him—I see him! Kill me! did he call out again. My husband, who had more courage than I, spoke to him most earnestly that he would recollect himself from that phantasy which troubled

bled his mind. No, no, cried he, it is more than certain: my conscience has tormented me long enough: I am the murderer of the best of my friends; I barbarian—I villain! When Carlson had sent his letter of farewell to his wife, he began to mend again; but because I had formed to myself hopes of his death, and of Mariane, my cursed hands prepared the poison which took away his life. What could we do in this case? My husband made use of all the means of reason and religion to assist this unfortunate man; but his despair was so great, that it would hear of no comfort. He desired to see Mariane once more, that he might disclose to her his vileness himself; but we begg'd of him for God's sake not to lay the fact open to her, for that this could not ease his troubled conscience; but that by his confession he would make himself guilty of a second murder. Nevertheless, Mariane came into the room before any body had called her; upon which Dormund spoke to her, but she was so overwhelmed with grief, that she could neither hear nor see. Then he took her by the hand, and was preparing to repeat his execrable confession, which I thought to hinder, by putting my hand upon his mouth, and by joining with my husband in praying, and singing a suitable hymn: but all our endeavours proved in vain, and served only to give his exclamations the greater force: he was determined that Mariane should know what he had done; and then he repeated his relation about the murder, with all its circumstances. For a proof whereof he

referred to the surgeon and to the doctor of the regiment, who at Carlson's request had opened him after his death, and had found the poison which they imagined he had taken himself, tho' none could guess what could have prompted him to such a desperation. Mariane having heard him, fell into raving fits, and called him by the most aggravating names which she could express, so that we were obliged at last to take her by force out of the room. Dormund, after this, composed himself for rest, and slept two days and two nights without ceasing, and we thought he never would have wakened again; but he recovered; and we went then to see him. 'Tis true, as a murderer, we ought to have hated him; yet universal love to repentant sinners obliged us to have compassion for him. He was now more composed than he had been before, and he begged of us with abundance of tears, to forgive him his vexatious behaviour to us; assuring us at the same time, in case he should survive, that he would not offend our eyes with his presence, but chuse some remote place for his abode, and the exercise of penitence for his horrid crime. He intreated us not to permit Mariane to see him any more: however we had thought of this before, and sent her to our apartment, instead of leaving her to stay among scenes of horror at home. We were now taken up with comforting Mariane, and did not see Dormund in two days; yet we sent often to his house, and were informed, that he mended apace: on the third day my husband went

went to him ; but Dormund was gone, and had left the following letter for him.

‘ **I** Am going whither the vengeance of heaven shall permit me to go : Mariane shall never see me again. Good God, to what can not love seduce one ? The shadow of my murdered friend will follow me wherever I go ; yet I rather will suffer all than aggravate the matter with murdering myself. Curse the memory of me as often as I rise in your thoughts, for I deserve it ; but let not the world know my enormous guilt : I am sufficiently punished in losing Mariane and my generous friends. I will again take to arms ; perhaps I shall the sooner lose my life which is but a torment to me. All my effects I leave to Mariane ; but may Heaven reward you for the friendship which you have shewn me in my sickness—to me who am a monster, and who am not worthy of being pitied. Ah ! unfortunate Mariane !

Dormund was now gone ; neither have we ever heard what is become of him ; and I wish that his despair may not have driven him to self-murder. Our Mariane, in the mean time, was often seized with dangerous fits of melancholy, and necessity required that she should be bled in two veins at once. As she had her bed in my chamber, I asked her several times how she did ; and she assured me, that she perceiv’d herself much better, and expected to rest well that

that night: but the morning shew'd a different scene; for scarce had I opened my eyes, and turned them to her bed, but I discovered streams of blood run from it. Then what could I imagine but that her veins had opened again in the night? As to Mariane herself, she lay in a dead-like slumber, or rather swooning. I cried out for help, and immediately we closed and tied her veins. What surpriz'd us most, was that we perceived the bandages not to have dropt off, but to have been taken off on purpose. Against evening Mariane came a little to herself, when she owned that she had opened the bandages herself, from a desire of dying; and wished heartily that her end would soon draw on. She then gave me a kiss; and without speaking one word more, swooned away, and died within few hours after.

This unforeseen accident affected me in like manner, as people who are dangerously wounded in an engagement, feel not the hurt till they are out of danger. As soon as Mariane was dead, then my misery began: I was ready to charge myself with being accessory to her death, because I did not watch her more closely that night: but what human prudence can foresee all possible consequences? I had, in fact, advised Mariane to marry Dormund, and I had the misfortune to see that he was the cause of her self-murder: I reflected upon Mariane's fate as to the next world; and I should have endured a thousand times more uneasiness, had my love for Mariane suffered me to pronounce her unhappy.

happy. Her mother was far more resigned than myself, and I do not know by what aid she was supported in her afflicting condition, tho' I believe that it was by that of religion. She looked upon every thing as a destiny, whose causes were impenetrable: in the next place, she comforted herself in the Creator's wisdom and goodness; and overcame her misfortunes by stedfastness. It is certain that the aid of religion produces wonderful effects in matters of adversity; for take from the unfortunate the hopes of a better world, and I do not find what can raise desponding spirits.

Having gone through the above related difficulties, we began now again to respite, and to taste the sweets of tranquillity: we returned to our books to make advantage of our leisure time, and love made our life comfortable, and assisted us in breaking the force of the melancholy remembrance of our former disasters, which otherwise would often have disturbed our repose. About this time my husband compiled a book, to which he gave the title of *The Philosopher approv'd in Adversities*, and which had the applause of several learned men, as an elaborate piece of writing; such, perhaps as the most eminent could not have finished with the same spirit as he who treated that subject from his own experience. Not much above three months after Mariane's death, our landlord departed this life, his wife being gone before him. This loss of our generous friend caused a great alteration in our circumstances; for we were obliged

obliged to take our money into our own hands, which, together with that of Dormund's bequest to Mariane, was become very considerable; and which, in fact, was a great burden to us; for neither my husband, nor Carolina, nor I, knew the right use of money; and I believe we should rather have parted with one half of it, than be troubled with taking care of the whole. Andreas, Carolina's brother, (as I have mentioned above) was now again well settled at the Hague: and to make him an eminent merchant once more, we voluntarily gave him some thousand crowns, and then divided our stock into two equal parts; one whereof we offered Andreas to trade with; and the other part we kept to serve ourselves, and to help worthy friends. If carefulness in managing money is a virtue without exception, then I must confess that we were often negligent in that duty: it was sufficient for us many times to give it away, if we did but know, that he who applied to us for it, was an honest man, who had more occasion for money than we ourselves: one word of an honest man was with my husband of the same force of a bond. We lost indeed by this means a great deal of our substance, but we never were defrauded out of it. Our debtors were all good oeconomists, but they met with no inducement to parsimony from our rigour: they endeavoured the more to pay us the money which we had advanced to them, because they observed that we had done it without any narrow-spirited view; and by their honest intentions they excited

cited us to be liberal, tho' we should not have been naturally so determined. It is almost incredible what satisfaction there is in serving honest and industrious people; and I believe there is more resolution required in refusing one a seasonable assistance, than in complying to relieve a man of honour, either by advancing to him, or giving him of our substance.

At last, and for several reasons, we left Amsterdam, and together with our daughter, Carolina, and Carlton's daughter, went to the Hague, to Mr. Andreas, these persons properly belonged to our family: but our deceased landlord had committed his daughter to my sole care, and therefore I might have included her in the number of my maiden subjects. Her portion was left in good hands at Amsterdam, till she should come to maturity. She was about fifteen years old, and tho' not handsom, had excellent natural qualities: she pleased, without being proud of having pleased; and her agreeable behaviour supplied her want of beauty. There are many gentlemen who rather chuse a genteel woman without beauty, than a beauteous one without an easy carriage; and were I of the masculine sex, I certainly would make one of the former. I may say without ostentation, that I have had the greatest share in bringing up this child, whose name was Florentina; and when I confess that she was of an extraordinary genteel deportment, I would not be understood that she had it through my instructions, but only that I procured opportunities for her to improve

improve herself in it: her familiarity with Carolina and my husband had very much contributed towards her politeness; and tho' she was grown up more in company of men than of her own sex, yet I always was of opinion, that this would prove of particular advantage to her: for if it is true that men become genteel and mannerly by conversing with us, it must follow that we turn wise and serious by associating with them: but I am far from meaning such men who have only the name of gentlemen, and by empty caresses endeavour to deify a young girl; nor such as make every look, and every motion of their lips or hands serve to express their puerile and insipid love: such men, forsooth, must not pretend to set up academies for young ladies, unless we would have them instructed in stupidity. It would have been unpardonable in me in particular, had I not brought up Florentina as well as my ability would allow, considering the time and conveniency I had for it, exclusive of her fertile genius, and my being almost constantly with her since she was seven years old. Her good qualities made her afterwards the wife of a man who enjoys one of the chief posts in Holland, and whose honouring him with that preference was the least circumstance that made him great and happy. But I will speak of Florentina in another place.

We had scarce been a month at the Hague, when a ship arrived from Russia, whose cargo was chiefly assigned to Mr. Andreas; who on this occasion invited us to go on board, to see in what

what goods the lading consisted; and we accepted of his proposal and went above a mile by sea to meet the ship which was coming into harbour.

I come now to a period of my life, whose consequences surpass every thing that I have been relating hitherto. I must force myself in describing them; so much is my heart against renewing the representation of a circumstance, which has been so dear to it. I know very well, that it is a particular beauty in relating a passage, to relate it in such a manner, that the reader believes he not only reads the subject, but sees it executed; and so from becoming sensibly touched, he unawares supplies the place of him who has been the chief object in the transaction; but I doubt whether I shall succeed in this, adequate to my expectation. Accordingly we went, as I have said before, above a mile by sea to meet the ship, on board of which we observed ten or twelve passengers who were Germans, and the rest Russians. All these went on shore in our presence, and congratulated Mr. Andreas on the safe arrival of his ship, because they had been told that it was freighted for his account. Mr. Andreas who loved to talk of affairs at sea, had entered into a long discourse with them, which made it tedious to me, and therefore took an opportunity to desire of my husband that he would return home with me. Whilst I was still talking to him, one of the passengers came running to me, and embraced me, crying out withal, yes! O yes! 'tis you—I could not believe

believe my eyes, but now I am sure that you are my beloved wife. He pressed me for some minutes so close to his breast, that I could not see who it was that treated me so tenderly. In the mean time I was surprized, and could not think but that I was attacked by one whom love had distract'd: but—O—Heaven! In whose arms did I find myself at last? In those of the Count's—my first husband's, whom I had counted dead ten years ago, but was still living, and now by me, who dressed after the Russian manner. It is impossible to tell how this confounded me; but so much do I remember, that I had not the power to utter one word; and my Count stood likewise mute, and burst into tears. At last he discovered his former friend my present husband, whom he embraced, but I did not hear one word spoken by either of them; or else I was so surprized, that I did not understand what they said, but ran to the coach which waited for us, with all speed, without regarding my two husbands, who nevertheless followed me immediately. I embraced the Count innumerable times in the coach; but in what manner I expressed myself to him, I do not remember. By this time we were come to our place of abode, where I began to recover my senses; and my Count was infinitely glad to have found me again, especially at a place where he had no thoughts of seeing me. He repeated to me, I may say, a thousand times that I was still as amiable as I was at the time when he left me; and his tenderness for me was the greater, as he had

had given me over for dead, because I had sent him no answer to his letters; and he believed that I had been informed of his being alive; tho' in short, he had known of my affairs as little as I knew of his being alive. Mr. R— had withdrawn himself, without giving us the least notice thereof; and therefore we were now by ourselves. My Count told me now the hard fate which he had met with since his absence, and which I shall relate by and by, desiring me at the same time to tell him what vicissitude of fortune I had undergone. He asked me a hundred questions before I could answer him one, and then it was with tears and embraces; for love and shame had made me speechless. One husband I had found again, whom I loved most faithfully; and another I should quit who was no less dear to me. There is a necessity of feeling it, before one can know what it is to be affected by two agitations at once, and of equal importance. My husband feared that my continual sighs and tears might indicate something disastrous to him, and therefore pressed me more instantly to unfold my mind to him, and to let him know either his good or bad fate: but he urged me in vain; for what could I say to him, unless I should tell him that I was married? and therefore I said nothing, but sighed, and thought that was saying enough. Are not you still my wife? began the Count: God forbid you should not: rather be my portion death than a negative answer. At that instant my daughter, a child of five years old, came into the room where we were,

were, which heightened my surprize, because at the same time she discovered the secret, at the thoughts whereof I trembled. She saw that I cried, and standing before me, what is the matter, mamma, that you cry, ask'd she? I come from papa, and he cries too, and will not speak with me: I have done no harm. Good God! cried the Count, I find you are married! Unfortunate man! Has it been my destiny to find you again on purpose that my heart should undergo every manner of torture? Who is your husband? — Tell me: my presence shall not put you long in pain—I will leave you directly. I do not charge you with perfidy. You have thought me to be dead; and therefore do not load yourself with reproaches: nothing has caused my misfortune but fate: perhaps this is a punishment for having loved Carolina: recover yourself and talk with me, continued he, (for I will hear it from nobody else but you) who is your husband? I got suddenly out of my chair, and embraced him, but spoke not a word yet. No, said he, treat me not with such tenderness: my heart indeed tells me that I am deserving of it; but your present husband alone can command your love; and mine must give way to destiny and virtue. By this confession he only aggravated my grief to a higher pitch. At last he ask'd the little child where her papa was, and why he did not come in? He came with you in the coach, sir, answered the girl: he is in his chamber, and is crying. Then I find my dear friend is your husband, interferred
the

the Count: this makes my misfortune the more tolerable. He desired then the child to call her papa; but he did not come; however he sent by the same messenger a billet to the Count, written in French, and of the subsequent purport:

Dear Count,

' I Pity you with the inmost sense of my soul;
' for thro' most innocent love I have of-
' fended you as highly as if I had been your
' enemy: I have deprived you of your consort:
' could you ever have expected this from me!
' The error, or rather the certainty of your
' being dead, has favoured me with the pos-
' session of her; but your presence now con-
' demns the longer duration of our union,
' though cemented by due forms of law. You
' are too generous, and we too innocent, that
' you should punish us with your resentment:
' our innocence, indeed, eases your misfortune;
' but does not remove it; and the only way to
' inflict a punishment upon myself, is to fly. I
' leave you then, dear Count, tho' shame will
' affect me as long as I live. Would to God
' my absence, and the pain which I endure,
' would make amends for your loss. Remove
' the child which brings you this letter, that
' you may not have the object of your misfor-
' tune before your eyes. If possible, think of
' me once more after reading this letter. You
' will never see me again.

As

As soon as the Count had read this letter, he left me, and went to see after my husband : but he was gone, and nobody knew whither. This put me in a fresh surprize, and my heart was all in an uproar. I had found my first husband again, and I knew that I could not enjoy them both : but, what passion is apt to hearken to reason less than love ? It was to me a most dreadful choice to think whom I should chuse ; for I belonged to the last as much as to the first ; and nothing was more terrible to me than to leave one of the two, tho' I was convinced of the indispensible necessity thereof. In the mean time Sir R— was gone, and the Count would not rest till he should see his friend again : he dispatched therefore immediately a messenger to the harbour, to hinder him from embarking for some other place, if that should be his intention. Whilst the messenger was gone to execute the Count's orders, I entertained him with discourse, and told him, that I had chosen Sir R— for my husband spontaneously, and of my own motion ; and that I had been at a loss how to recompense his generous friendship, better than by love. I know enough of this, said the Count ; neither you, nor my friend has offended me, it is a destiny which is unfathomable to us. After a few hours Sir R— came back again, who had been upon the point of taking shipping. He thanked the Count in a very respectful manner for having caused him to return. I desire nothing more than to take farewell of you, said he to the Count, and of your consort : grant

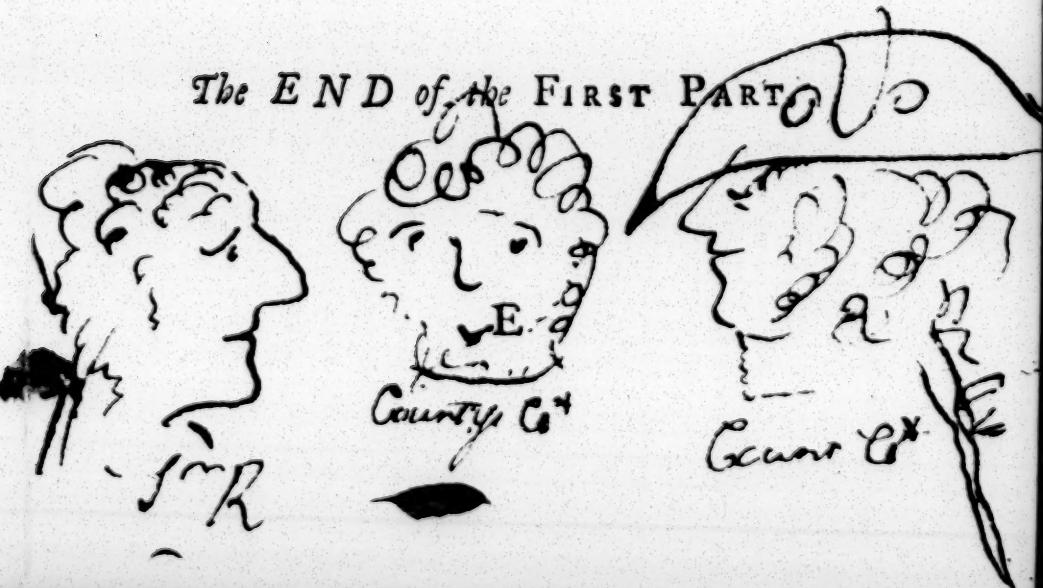
grant me but this satisfaction, and I assure you it shall be my last request while I live. Immediately he took me by the hand, and led me to the Count: here, said he, do I surrender to you my spouse, and from this moment do I change my love into respect for her. He would have taken his leave of us; but the Count would not let him go. No, said he, I would have you stay with us, and see that I comply with your desire of beginning marriage again with my wife, and with the same satisfaction as I did before the commencement of my disasters: she is still as dear to me as she was then: her heart is noble, and is neither changed nor diminished in its sincerity—She did not know that I was still living. No, my dear friend, stay with us; why would you leave us? Perhaps it is from a suspicion of my being jealous? I hope not, for that would be offending the fidelity of my wife, and the confidence which I always had in you. Pray madam, added the Count to me, intreat Sir R—to stay with us: but I had scarce so much power as to say to him, why will you leave us, when my husband presses you to stay here? and I must certainly never have loved you, if your departure should be indifferent to me: at least stay in Amsterdam, if you will not live with us at our house. I shall love you, without telling you of it any further; and tho' I shall cease to be your own, yet shall the love for my husband not hinder my shewing constant marks of the highest esteem and friendship for you. In short, my intreaties had that good effect that he

he consented to stay in Amsterdam. He often took a dinner with us; and carried himself as nobly as can be imagined: and should I have been less virtuous than I was, yet his generous behaviour would have kept me within the bounds of decency. He acted as tho' he had never been my husband: no, not one word of intimacy came from his mouth or looks: as he had behaved to me before I was married to him, so he did now. He entertained me with his friendship, and great regard for me, and promoted mine and my Count's satisfaction by sacrificing his own. He was often whole days with me alone; and should he then have talked of former times, I believe I should have been imprudent enough to have heard him: but who knows whether I have not inadvertently sent him many a glance from my eyes, as a mute confession of my love, notwithstanding my consciousness when I was with him, and notwithstanding the great love I had for my Count; who started when he perceived Carolina, and had rather seen that she had quitted our house; but I begg'd of him, not to deprive me of her company: have you trusted to my virtue, said I to him, then I will tell you that I am sure of yours. He was so affected with the fate of the two children which he had had by Carolina, that it would occasion a melancholy in him for several hours together. In the mean time he behaved to Carolina very kindly; and tho' he would often indulge a vein of pleasantry with us, yet he would always take care not to reflect upon

upon her, nor to offend me, by the matter or manner of it.

What has happened to us hereafter, I will relate at another opportunity; but shall at present give this brief summary of my husband the Count's absence, *viz.* that the Russians had possessed themselves of the village in which my husband lay so desperately ill, that while the Swedes were compelled to retire, they left him behind, as dead: but recovering afterwards, he was sent prisoner to Moscow as a Swedish officer. For fear of being the sooner delivered up to the Swedes, he concealed his name, and passed for a captain. The description of his misfortunes, and of what he has suffered during his five years banishment into Siberia, shall make the beginning of the second part of my history. The poor Count had indured very much before he died.—But I shall say no more at present.

The END of the FIRST PART



THE
HISTORY
OF THE
Swedish Countess of G.*

P A R T II.

THE misery and misfortunes which the Count has endured in Russia, are so affecting to me, that I am not able either to relate them methodically, or to digest them properly: however, I find no necessity for this melancholy trouble; for since his return I have received two of his letters, which were written to me whilst he was yet a prisoner: one of them was addressed to a clergyman in Livonia, but who could get no knowledge of my abode; the second letter was brought me by a Jew, as will appear from the narrative itself. These two letters contain the greatest part of what has happened to him in Moscovy and in Siberia, and therefore I will introduce them verbatim. It is certain, that one always takes more notice of the circumstances of an affair, if they are

are related by the person who has been actually engaged in the transaction: besides which, these letters will set the noble character of the Count in a better light, and shew the great love which he all this time retained for me. Ah! How great indeed was his love! Yet at the same time when he loved me so tenderly, and felt, upon my account, every thing that could augment his misery, I have resigned myself to the embraces of another husband! How many thousand tears has this thought cost me already? And how often has my innocent love to Sir R— made me blush!

The first letter was written to me from the city of Moscow, and is as follows:

‘ **Y**Our unhappy husband is still living!
‘ Would to God that you were already acquainted with it; or that at least this letter may inform you. The sudden attack which the Russians made on the village where I was sick, and a prisoner, has saved my life, three days before my appointed execution. So it is, my dear: this providence is the result of your tears, and my innocence. I did not come to myself in several days after the engagement; at last, seeing the Swedes dislodged, and finding myself in the hands of the Russians, I thought of securing my own person, by telling them that I was a captain, and that

‘ my name was Lowenhock. Among all
‘ the prisoners with whom I have been
‘ dragged from place to place, and at last to
‘ the city of Moscow, are but two officers
‘ that knew me. They are both English-
‘ men, and the truest and best companions
‘ of my misfortunes, that I could have wished
‘ for : one of them whose name is Steeley,
‘ has lately procured the liberty to speak to
‘ his countrymen who trade to this place,
‘ and by their contrivance furnished me with
‘ a safe opportunity to send a letter to you
‘ to Livonia. Ah ! that it was already in
‘ your hands ; and that I could see but one
‘ of the tears which your joy of knowing
‘ that I live, should force from your lovely
‘ eye. Pray, whither have you moved since
‘ my last letter of condolence ? Has the ven-
‘ geance of the wicked Prince pursued you ?
‘ Is my friend R— retired along with you ?
‘ And whither ? Poor, unhappy woman !
‘ Let me have the comfort that I may a-
‘ scribe all my present and future misfor-
‘ tunes to your virtue and your love for me ;
‘ nothing but these considerations can ease
‘ my misery, or remove the shame and the
‘ shocking memory of that violent death
‘ which the Prince had designed for me.
‘ Bear my absence with patience, I beg of
‘ you, for our mutual love sake ; and hope
‘ that we shall see each other again. But,
‘ O God ; when ? And how shall I know
‘ that you have been able to survive my
‘ misfor-

misfortunes? Terrible thought; which I cannot set down without trembling. But —no—my only wish in this world—you live still: my heart tells me so; and it tells me likewise, that I shall have the felicity once more to embrace you, before I die: Which happiness that I may be blessed with, I implore divine providence daily, and at the moment of writing this. Can God have spared my life for a greater comfort than to permit me to spend part of it with you? were it even for a few days. Represent only to yourself the satisfaction we shall have when time shall deliver one of us to the other: how long it will be before our ecstasy of joy shall permit us to speak? And how long shall we speak and embrace each other, before we have spoken enough, and related each other's fate. Maintain therefore a good resolution: there is nothing that will ease my sufferings more than hearing from you and my friend R—. If circumstances will permit it, pray send me some money, that I may try whether I can purchase my liberty to return: I have been short of cash ever since I was arrested; and I have gone through all the difficulties which can happen to a prisoner upon a march of above an hundred miles. Even the poor provision which some hundred fellow prisoners of common men complained of, has served me all the time. The hatred which the Russians have to the

• Swedish nation, has made our misery of
• being prisoners more intolerable than any
• thing else; for, their carelessness to us, and
• their insensibility of our complaint, they
• call a just return for that barbarous beha-
• viour which our King, as they say, shewed
• to the Russian prisoners. What was the
• greatest misfortune which happened to us
• after we had passed by the frontiers of Po-
• land, was the want of fresh water, because
• we were often obliged to take a round-
• about rout over sandy places, to avoid the
• marshy grounds.

• My whole substance since I have been a
• prisoner consisted in twenty dollars, which
• I had lately given to me by a common
• soldier. He died of his wounds about a
• month before we came to the city of Mos-
• cow, in the midst of a night which we
• were obliged to pass in the open fields.
• He had done me great services in our
• march, and I rewarded his honesty with
• continuing by him all night, and assisting
• him in prayers, at his request. In his
• quilted wasteccoat he had a gold piece sewed
• up, worth twenty dollars, which a young
• woman whom he loved had given him
• when he left Stockholm: this he gave to
• me, and desired that if I should return to
• that city, I would inform the young wo-
• man of his death, and to be kind to her.
• I send you the paper in which the money
• was wrapt up, and which has her well be-
• loved

loved name in it. If possible, let her know
 that her lover is dead, and send her a hun-
 dred dollars instead of twenty; for they
 have done me and my trusty Steeley a great
 deal of service. When my countryman
 was dead, I lay down by him, and fell a-
 sleep; at which time I dreamed that you
 came to me at some river: how astonished
 were you, my love: how agreeably sur-
 prized, to have found me again. When
 I waked out of this dream, I found my-
 self extended upon my dead countryman;
 and before I got upon my feet, I thanked
 Heaven for this auspicious dream. The
 kindness which I had shewn to the de-
 ceased, secured me the goodwill of six other
 common soldiers, who had been with him
 in his last moments; for it pleased them,
 that I had prepared their comrade so well
 for death, and they pray'd me that I would
 do the same to them, if any of them should
 die upon the march: and from that very
 day they strove to do me all the service
 that was in their power; for they would
 often keep themselves short of water that
 they might have some to offer to me and
 Steeley, whenever we should be in great
 want of it. Soon after this I fell sick, and
 was not able to follow the detachment that
 escorted us; but, rather than leave me be-
 hind, my six countrymen contrived to
 carry me in a sort of litter, several days,
 and took willingly all that trouble upon

E 4 ' themselves,

• themselves, to which neither fear nor re-
• ward could have engaged them. During
• this my illness I have particularly taken
• notice of the great difference there is be-
• tween serving one from the motive of obe-
• dience and dependence, and the same ac-
• tion when arising from a sense of friend-
• ship and compassion. The willingness of
• these people to serve me, increased in pro-
• portion to the danger I was in ; and tho'
• they never before had been very ready ei-
• ther in contriving or obliging, yet upon
• this occasion they became careful, and ap-
• plied all their skill in finding out what
• might save my life, since their joint en-
• deavours were used to save me from dying.
• This has been the only sickness which has
• happened to me in the way to Russia.
• About six weeks ago we reached the city
• of Moscow, and were since the commence-
• ment of war the first Swedish prisoners
• who were exposed to the revengeful eyes
• of the wild inhabitants of this place. We
• were between three and four hundred of us,
• and after having marched up to a spacious
• place, were there exhibited to the public
• sight of the mob, who would willingly
• have tore us to pieces, had not a strong
• corps of Russians guarded us. After we
• had stood a considerable while, and heard
• all the calumnies and reproaches which the
• Russians were capable of expressing, and
• of which we understood some from their
• gestures,

' gestures, an old woman came thronging to
 ' a Russian who was arrived together with
 ' us, and asked him what was become of his
 ' comrade, her son? The fellow, who per-
 ' haps did not know after whom she asked,
 ' gave her for answer, that the Swedes had
 ' killed him. That moment did she fly at
 ' me, and cried out, what, hast thou killed
 ' my son? and tore me down to the ground,
 ' when I was scarce able to stand upon my
 ' legs for weakness; neither could I disen-
 ' gage myself from this monster till I was
 ' assisted in it by one of the guard. Consi-
 ' der but, my dear, in what a state of mind
 ' I was at that juncture of time! For, even
 ' in that city where my father had the ho-
 ' nour to be the King's Ambassador, I was
 ' looked upon as a mean fellow of a Swede;
 ' and perhaps on the same spot where he
 ' made his entry, his son was exposed to the
 ' worryings of an old Woman.

' In what, kind Heaven, have I deserved
 ' that hard fate to be at such a great distance
 ' from you, shut up betwixt empty walls;
 ' in a receptacle where besides the company
 ' of my Steeley I am debarred from every
 ' thing that comforts life; and know of no
 ' other recreation than that of talking to my
 ' companion about you, and jointly bemoan-
 ' ing our destiny! I have already mentioned
 ' that out of the twenty dollars Steeley made
 ' a present to our keeper, whereby he got
 ' the liberty to speak to some merchants

from London : these have advanced him
one hundred dollars, with a promise to do
whatever they can, in his favour : by
means of this money we hope now and
then to purchase the shadow of liberty from
our keeper ; for if Russians can be moved
to compassion, it must be by dint of money.
At his return Steeley brought a bottle of
wine and some biscuits with him : you
think perhaps, said he to me, as he was
taking the bottle out of his pocket, that I
have already been drinking wine with my
countrymen ; no, no, my good Count, I
should not chuse to lose the pleasure of
drinking the first glass in your company :
I have not touched a drop ; but now I can
forbear no longer ; come, let us forget our
misfortunes for some moments, and taste
the joys of wine : let us fancy every thing
to be real, for what we wish. We drank
then a glass ; and, oh ! what a luxury was
that to us ! we were quite ravish'd at it ;
and praised God who had given this liquor
the virtue to revive our hearts, and
thanked him, by silent reflections, for a
comfort which we had not enjoyed for a
long time. We spent that whole afternoon
over our bottle ; and endeavoured to men-
tion nothing about our past hardships ; but
that was impossible : our satisfaction seemed
not to be perfect without touching upon
our tragical occurrences, and we therefore
rehearsed them, as if we had never told
them

them to each other before : we comforted ourselves in our sighings with that unalterable truth, that it was the decree of a good and wise God that all these adversities should befall us ; and that there was no better way to make ourselves easy under our afflictions than to submit to his holy will, till it shall please him to make an end either of our misfortunes or lives. We gave each other our hands upon this, with a resolution to suffer all our future troubles with becoming patience. But, said Steeley, looking upon my hand, should we not wish to offer these hands once more to those who love us in our country ? And if God should deny us this, should we behave with indifference about it ? If God should deny us this — replied I, and could go no further : my understanding was clouded ; and I saw no more grounds for patience, but had reason enough to lament myself, and to regret the loss of you. We were silent some minutes, as if we had been ashamed of having broken through the resolution which we so lately had taken, and jointly agreed to. As God pleases ! began my friend at last, with a tone which betrayed an uneasiness in him—as God will : my patience shall not importune him to model his providence according to my wishes : no—I leave him to order what he pleases. But is it a crime to wish for a return into our country again, or to get rid

• rid of this barbarous nation ? Shall we
• spend our whole life in this miserable con-
• dition, and hope for nothing but death ?
• Such was our patience, and such were our
• frequent arguments : when we endeavoured
• to compose ourselves, we became still more
• uneasy in our minds. 'Tis true, that our
• contemplations on predestination makes
• the impossibility of helping ourselves ap-
• pear more plain than if we were to gather
• it from our own conceptions : we see the
• necessity to submit ourselves to her lead-
• ings ; yet we will not go from the plan of
• our own wishes, but flatter ourselves to
• conduct them with safety and expedition,
• tho' at the same time we see, that the per-
• forming part is not in our power ; and
• becoming sensible of being disappointed,
• our heart, as it were, revenges itself by dis-
• quietude, and draws a cloud over our un-
• derstanding, lest its brightness should ex-
• pose us still more for our vanity.

• As we are not yet obliged to labour like
• the common prisoners, tho' I have not the
• least liberty to stir out, my first exercise in
• my present confinement is this letter ; and
• because we have not wherewithal to pass
• our time, it makes our misery the greater,
• since we have nothing to think on but our
• wretched condition. And tho' Steeley's
• purchased permission to speak now and
• then with his countrymen should have pro-
• cured us nothing else, yet the coming at
• writing

writing materials alone would have made ample amends for his bribing our keeper ; since all our money would not have availed to allow us these conveniences. Sidney, Steeley's countryman and uncle, has the misfortune to be lodged in a different part of the town ; which is the more pity as well for us as for him ; for tho' we ourselves are in a poor condition, yet his situation must needs be more wretched, considering he has no money at all in his hands. Steeley sends you his compliment ; and he is your friend as much as he is mine : were it not for him, my prison would be torture infernal to me : but as the most honest and upright of men have their faults, so he is not free from some foibles, which however are of service to us, because they often rouze us from our melancholy drowsiness, and afford us an opportunity to give our heavy thoughts a turn. He loves the glory of his nation, at the expence of other powers : this partiality, joined to his impetuous temper, and the fault of contradicting, hinders him not from being both entertaining and valuable. His disputatious faculty proceeds from a flow of spirit and vivacity ; from a love of free-thinking as well as from a contempt of servility ; from his solid sincerity, and his being easily sensible of dis-honour : but this contradicting soon loses the greatest part of its acrimony by the agitation

• tation it raises, and becomes productive of
• entertaining discourses and little disputes ;
• the want of which in our confinement
• would double the time upon us. In short,
• we seem to be made for each other ; be-
• cause his foibles counterbalance mine, and
• make his good qualities shine the brighter.
• He is a man of a very good make, and
• his looks are as lively as his heart ; add
• that he is still young. A disappointment
• in love is the occasion that he has left his
• country, and against his inclination gone
• into Swedish service. I will briefly tell
• you his disaster, to move you to compas-
• sion for him.

• When he and his uncle Sidney had left
• the university of Oxford, he went to his
• father's country seat near London, to have
• rural conveniences for his studies : here he
• became acquainted with a neighbouring
• country gentleman's daughter, a woman
• wanting neither youth, beauty, nor for-
• tune ; all which advantages were enough
• to inspire him with deep love for her, as
• the sequel will tell. After a courtship of
• two years, and having surmounted all the
• obstacles which presented themselves to
• him in that time, he at last got the general
• consent of her friends for a match, and to
• be married to his dear Lucia. Accordingly
• the day for that solemnity was fixed, and
• by the morrow the marriage was to be con-
• summated at his father's seat ; wherefore
• he

he and his son on the preceding day went
to fetch the bride and those who were to
accompany her. They arrived at the gen-
tleman's house about noon; and having
dined there, prepared for their return.
Whilst the horses were getting ready, the
espoused pair went to sit down in an ar-
bour; but when they were told that the
coach was ready, Lucia desired her spouse
to withdraw a moment, and when
every thing was ready, to fetch her: ac-
cordingly he soon came back for that pur-
pose: now I am ready, said she (offering
him her hand), to follow you: I had just
now a fear upon my spirits, and I do not
know for what: or am I not happy enough
now I hasten to meet matrimony in your
embraces, which speak the highest con-
tentment? come: I am your's. They then
stept into a coach, and the rest followed
them in two other vehicles. It may easily
be imagined, that their discourse rested
upon nothing else than innocent and happy
love, its commencement, progress, and
what they had endured for each other.
Whilst they still were talking together,
and about three miles from Mr. Steeley's
seat, a tempest of thunder arose, and black
clouds darkened the sky all round them,
one clap following another; at last the
thunder struck one of the horses dead;
whereupon Lucia leaped out of the coach
in a great fright, and took Steeley eagerly
by

‘ by the hand to hasten with her to the next
‘ village : but that moment whilst he was
‘ getting up, another clap of thunder broke
‘ with such violence, as made him sink in
‘ the coach. Having recover’d himself a-
‘ gain, he sees his bride still at the coach
‘ door, in the same posture as she was when
‘ she offered him her helping hand, struck
‘ dead by lightning. Could greater misfor-
‘ tune have happened to my poor friend ?
‘ Six months after, his father proposed to
‘ him to take some journey, in order to dil-
‘ sipate his melancholy, and sent him with
‘ the retinue of the English ambassador, to
‘ Stockholm, having prevailed with his un-
‘ cle Sidney to go with him as a companion.
‘ And even since he has been in this city, his
‘ grief has been so great, as to make him
‘ weary of life, and he has proposed to go
‘ into service again, without letting our am-
‘ bassador know of it ; in which he would
‘ persuade his uncle to follow him. How-
‘ ever he has now sent a letter to the said am-
‘ bassador, in which he acquaints him of his
‘ misfortune, and of his confinement ; and
‘ at the same time recommends me to his
‘ interest, under the name of the captain
‘ Lowenhock ; perhaps that man may prove
‘ instrumental to our release. Address your
‘ letters to me according to the inclosed to
‘ the ambassador’s secretary, who is Steeley’s
‘ special friend. I should not break off wri-
‘ ting yet, had I more paper by me. But
‘ may

‘ may I hope that this letter will come to
‘ your hands? O! yes, I hope so, and com-
‘ fort myself already with an answer from
‘ you——,

My husband tells me, that he has sent me three letters in all, two from Moscow, and one from Siberia. One of the two former I have not received at all; and this letter was written by him about a twelvemonth after the preceding, at a time when his confinement was most tolerable; for Steeley, by help of his countrymen, and their money, had gained the favour of the keeper of the prisoners, and had even prevailed upon him so far as to remove his uncle from his former quarters, that he might be with him and my husband; by adding which unfortunate gentleman (whose hard fate will be related in the following letter) to the former two, their troubles were for some time much eased. My husband thought he could never tell me enough what a good man this Sidney was; and said, that he had been of an amorous, but timorous disposition; and that he was gone into service, merely to oblige Steeley; also, that according to his natural inclination, he had been less able to bear with the hardships of imprisonment than the other two; and as dispirited as he himself had been, yet when Steeley and my husband were seized with melancholy, that then he had been most serene, and had been their comforter.

forter. The letter which my husband sent me from Tobolskoy, a city in Siberia, is the following :

*My Dear, sweet honey pet Darling
Sweet jewel Heart's Delight.*

• I Hope that you are still living, because
• my heart wishes it; and I hope also
• that this letter will be safely delivered to
• you, tho' it is written by me in the most
• distant and dismal country in the world.
• A Polish Jew, who trades to Tobolskoy,
• and is now preparing to return to Poland
• again, is my friend and benefactor; and
• will perhaps prove even my redeemer from
• my confinement. About a twelve-month
• ago I saved him in a wood near this city,
• where he with his horse had fallen into
• snow, and must have inevitably perish'd,
• had not I, with the hazard of my life, re-
• lieved him. I happened, like other un-
• fortunate ones, in following the will of my
• fate, to go in search of Ermins, when I de-
• scried him, almost frozen to death. This
• man has shewn his gratitude to me in a
• most noble manner, and has convinced
• me, that there are good dispositions among
• people whom we suspect to have the least
• share of them. He could not rest till he
• had gone with me to the governor, who
• had a great esteem for him, on account of
• his being a man of immense riches. Sir,
• said the Jew to the governor, this Swedish
• officer has saved my life, and I want nei-
• ther

Swedish Countess of Gzindorff

ther gratitude nor money to ransom him. The Governor replied, that this was not in his power, and that he could set none at liberty without orders from the court: then the Jew gave him a bag with gold, and desired him to excuse me from doing the hard services of those who are banished to this country; which the Governor promised to do, upon condition, that the Jew should daily pay some copikes for me. My benefactor paid this money with pleasure, for a whole year before-hand, and reserved to himself the liberty to visit me every second day alternately in the prison-room. But before I proceed to give you an account of my present condition, I must tell you first how things have gone with me in Siberia, during three years past; and how I am come into this country.

If you have received my last letter from Moscow, you must have been informed, that Sidney, Steeley's uncle, was removed from his former quarters, and was lodged with us in the same prison. The fresh supply of money which Steeley had from his countrymen, lasted us some months to mend our exterior circumstances. We did not live entirely upon the poor provision which was given to the prisoners, but we could afford ourselves something better, at least for our dinners. We had often desired the keeper to help us to the reading of some English or French books; but

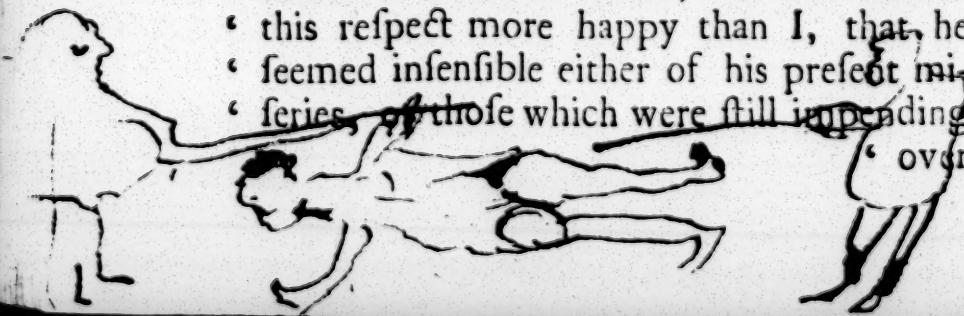
‘ but we could get none ; and instead there-
‘ of he brought us the chronicles of Russia ;
‘ and a Pope or clergyman, to teach us the
‘ language. How glad were we to employ our
‘ time in something ! They were books in-
‘ deed which we would not have looked in-
‘ to at another time ; yet now we did read
‘ them over and over again ; for this exer-
‘ cise saved our thoughts from ruminating
‘ upon our condition ; which was a very
‘ considerable return for our trouble in learn-
‘ ing the language of the country, tho’ for
‘ no other purpose but to understand the
‘ history of the former barbarous Dukes of
‘ Russia. Accordingly our Pope attended
‘ us several hours every day, for a trifle of
‘ money, and was not remiss in advancing
‘ us so far as to acquire a tolerable know-
‘ ledge of his language, in a short time. At
‘ last he brought us several books, which
‘ treated of the Greek religion ; but he was so
‘ ignorant of what they contained in particu-
‘ lar, that it was a shame to us to see a church-
‘ man so very empty of that knowledge which
‘ he should have made his chief study : hence
‘ it proceeded, that the Pope not being able to
‘ defend himself, Steeley often contradicted
‘ him in his low arguments ; and tho’ the
‘ former was still a smatterer in the language,
‘ yet he understood enough to contradict,
‘ especially as he was naturally inclined to
‘ this fault ; and therefore Sidney and I of-
‘ ten begged of him to break himself of it,
‘ because

because we observed from time to time more and more malice in the Pope. At last, when our money was gone, and the Pope seldom came to us but when he was suddenly, we discharged our reverend divine ; at which he was offended, and quarreled with Steeley and poor Sidney, when they paid him the last money for his teaching us. We endeavoured, indeed, to pacify him, now by good words, and now by saying nothing ; but both proved in vain : the spirituous liquors and his mean and vile soul knew no bounds, but he bawled and roared so long till the watch came in, and inquired about the matter : Whereupon the villain accused us of having spoken disrespectful of the Czar and the church. Having heard the charge, the soldiers began to rave against us most bitterly, and we were in danger of being torn to pieces by them : the head keeper came also to inform himself of what had passed, and promised the Pope satisfaction ; and we were immediately put in Irons, as if we had been the greatest criminals. Ah ! my dear, shall I describe the fear in which we were at that time ? Shall I tell you all ? The next day we were brought to our trials, and the Pope repeated his former charge, first, against Steeley. My friend relied upon his innocence, but the Pope's word prevailed at this horrible court of injustice, who proceeded with him according

‘ ing to their barbarous custom of extorting
‘ the truth : they ordered him to be thrown
‘ down, and to give him the bodogges ;
‘ which torture he suffered in our sight with
‘ the greatest constancy, and was not heard
‘ to make the least complaint, whilst he was
‘ under the hands of these barbarians, who
‘ stood beating his naked body with two
‘ sticks. This act of barbarity being over,
‘ without the court’s having been able to con-
‘ strain him to the least confession, it came
‘ to the unfortunate Sidney’s turn, whom
‘ the Pope formally impeached : and tho’
‘ the poor prisoner’s tears and prayers might
‘ have moved any other barbarians to pity,
‘ yet they could not touch the hearts of these
‘ savages ; but ordered him to thrown down,
‘ and to undergo the same torture with
‘ Steeley’s. I would have turned my face
‘ from beholding his torments, but these
‘ monsters obliged me to be a witness to
‘ their inhuman operations, which indeed he
‘ endured, but were so extreme, that nature
‘ sunk under them. After they had given
‘ him the usual number of strokes, Sidney
‘ lay motionless : they flung then a bason
‘ full of water over his face, to fetch him a-
‘ gain ; but there was no life in him ; and
‘ this was the less strange to our judges, as
‘ it is common for the rustic natives them-
‘ selves to lose their lives by undergoing this
‘ cruel trial. Steeley was then removed, be-
‘ cause his legs were not able to support
‘ him ;

him ; but Sidney was dead, and I expect-
ed my fate every moment. The malicious
Pope seemed now as if his vengeance was
abated, either by the death of Sidney, or
because he might think that I had the least
offended him. He did not accuse me of
having calumniated the state ; but he in-
sisted upon it, that I should be an evidence
that my two comrades were guilty of trea-
sonable expressions. I made my defence,
and told the court, that I had heard no-
thing of that sort of language from either,
at least that I had not understood it. I
was then ordered to undergo the penal
examination ; and accordingly they laid me
on the floor, where they asked me once
more, whether I had heard nothing ? The
fears of pain and death, indeed, assaulted me
with inexpressible fury ; yet I held out,
and resolved, rather to die, than by false
evidence to save my own life, and to take
perhaps Steeley's away. I am not sure
whether my ghastly looks might move the
Pope to compassionate me ; but this I know
to be certain, that he interceded for me,
and told the court, that I might not have
understood the calumnies of Steeley and
Sidney, because I was not so far advanced
in the Russian tongue as they two were.
They bid me then to rise again, and carri-
ed me back to our prison, where I found
Steeley in a senseless condition. I laid
down by him upon the naked floor, and
clapt

‘ clapt my one hand about him, for my o-
‘ ther was still fettered, but he spoke not one
‘ word, and lay all night long insensible as to
‘ the faculties of hearing and feeling. In the
‘ morning I spoke again to my friend, and
‘ to my great joy I saw him open his eyes,
‘ and offer me his hand. Soon after our
‘ keeper came and enquired whether Steeley
‘ was still living ? he ordered my fetters to
‘ be taken off, and seemed to pity us both.
‘ I assured him by all that was sacred, that
‘ my friend was as innocent of the matter as
‘ I was myself. That signifies nothing,
‘ said he ; for the Pope being an ecclesiastic,
‘ his evidence is always taken ; and you are
‘ both adjudged to be sent to Siberia. God
‘ help you ! for I can do you no service,
‘ else I must expect the Pope to persecute
‘ me. Be contented if you have not your
‘ tongues cut out before you are banished
‘ to Siberia ; for this is frequently done to
‘ such as speak against the state or the
‘ church. How could you be so unprovi-
‘ dent to offend the Pope ? In a couple of
‘ days, I believe you will be sent to Siberia,
‘ together with other prisoners, and I shall
‘ hardly see you again. I heard this dismal
‘ account without saying much to it, and
‘ lay down again by Steeley, who still con-
‘ tinued in a sort of trance, and was now in
‘ this respect more happy than I, that he
‘ seemed insensible either of his present mi-
‘ series, ~~or those which were still impending~~ over



over him. After the keeper had delivered himself in the above manner, he stopped, and said to me, well, what am I to have for telling you all this? I hope you will give me something before you go, for the service I have done to you. Who could have thought that this man should not have come rather to our comfort than to demand money of us in our wretched condition? However, I put my hand into Steeley's pocket for some money, but the watch had taken every penny from him. When the keeper saw no money coming, his seeming compassion dwindled away: he parted dissatisfied, and left me in a condition which I cannot describe to you—I sunk under grief and sorrow. In my distracted thoughts of being forsaken by God and men, and with a revolting heart, wishing a thousand times for my death, I, wretched creature, fell asleep. I had passed several nights waking, and my weary and confused spirits wanted a thorough rest to repair themselves. I slept very sound; and I believe did not wake till after twenty-four hours; when I perceived my friend with lifted up eyes lie by me. He asked me where Sidney was? because he himself had been carried out of the court before the other died; but I did not know whether it might not be unseasonable to tell him the truth, and therefore gave him no answer. Is he dead? asked

• he—Would to God he was ! for then he
• would be better off than we. Is he no
• longer in the hands of the barbarians ? He
• asked again ; and then I told him that he
• was dead. I inquired of him, whether he
• still was in great pain ? And he asked me
• again, whether I was recovered from my
• torments ; because he thought that I had
• undergone them as well as he. Then you
• have been excused, resumed he, when I
• had given him a detail of what had hap-
• pened after he had been incapable of taking
• notice of any thing. Now am I doubly
• satisfied, to hear that Sidney is dead, and
• you have not felt my torments.

• I could keep him no longer ignorant of
• our destiny to be banished to Siberia, and
• told him what I had heard from the keep-
• er ; but he seemed so hardened, by our
• former misfortunes, that he was very in-
• different about it : however, when I inti-
• mated, that they perhaps might shew still
• more barbarity to us, he wrung his hands.
• No—no, cried he, rather death !—a thou-
• sand times rather than that : would you
• live, and be misused after such a cruel man-
• ner ? Whilst we were thus overwhelmed
• by new fury and despair, the keeper entered
• our prison to let us know, that to-morrow
• morning we should be sent both away to
• Siberia. Will they do any thing else to
• us ? cried Steeley. No, answered the Rus-
• sian, nothing else : you are only banished
• to

‘ to Siberia, there to labour. Now our
‘ greatest concern seemed so trifling, when
‘ we heard that they were to use no further
‘ violence to us ; and in the loss of our fears
‘ we found such a sort of comfort as nothing
‘ else would have procured to us. Steeley
‘ would have made a present to the keeper,
‘ but his money had been all taken from
‘ him. After he had searched all his poc-
‘ kets a long while, he found still two rubles ;
‘ at which he was rejoiced, and got up the
‘ first time ; then told the keeper he would
‘ divide his riches with him ; and indeed he
‘ had so much humanity, that he returned
‘ Steeley one half of them. Steeley asked
‘ what they had done with Sidney’s dead
‘ body, and whether he could see the re-
‘ mains of his friend once more ? But the
‘ Russian told him, that he was already put
‘ in the ground where malefactors are usual-
‘ ly buried. Let him lie where he will, be-
‘ gan Steeley in a passion of tears, he is still
‘ an honest man, and my friend : they have
‘ done him wrong.—I gave him the wink,
‘ that he would be silent, and not make him-
‘ self more unhappy for his friend’s sake
‘ who was now dead. He asked, whether
‘ it was not possible to speak to one of his
‘ countrymen ? but that could not be done
‘ upon any account. And now our keeper
‘ took leave of us ; and we thanked him
‘ most courteously for his humanity, tho’
‘ we had dearly purchased it. We embr-
‘ ced

‘ ced him, and asked him over and over, ‘ whether he was positive that they would ‘ inflict no other punishment upon us ? He ‘ told us, no ; and assured us of it by a most ‘ solemn oath, which is sacred amongst them. ‘ We were then going to give him money ‘ to buy victuals for us, for it was now the ‘ third day since we had tasted food ; but ‘ the Russian turned at once generous, and ‘ told us, that he would give us some, be- ‘ sides a bottle of distilled liquor upon our ‘ journey, and a plaster to put upon Steeley’s ‘ wounded body. Accordingly he brought ‘ what he had promised us, and we supped, ‘ I may say, comfortably, since we were ‘ now hardened, and very well assured that ‘ hardly any thing worse would happen to ‘ us than what had already befallen us. Af- ‘ ter supper we went to rest ; and Steeley ‘ found his smarts in the morning almost ‘ gone, by virtue of the plaster. Soon af- ‘ ter we were got up, the keeper came to ‘ tell us that we must depart ; and accord- ‘ ingly delivered us up to the officer, who ‘ carried us to the other eight prisoners, of ‘ whom the major part were natives, and ‘ men of account, but suspected of rebelli- ‘ ous practices. There were two carriages ‘ provided, into each of which they put five ‘ of us ; and I had the mortification to lose ‘ my Steely, each of us being ordered to go ‘ in a different waggon. Nothing could ‘ have augmented my misery more than ‘ this ;

‘ this ; for in the same order as we arrived
‘ to one station, we were obliged to proceed
‘ to another ; so that Steeley could not come
‘ to me, nor I talk to him, except a few
‘ single words at a distance. Three of my
‘ companions were Russians, as wild in be-
‘ haviour, as in aspect ; whose misfortune
‘ made them still more imbibited ; and
‘ they were ashamed to suffer an equal pu-
‘ nishment with a Frenchman, and a Swede,
‘ while they valued themselves upon being
‘ Russian Knees. The Frenchman who had
‘ beed a major, but who unfortunately had
‘ drawn his sword upon the colonel, soon
‘ became my confident ; and it was the more
‘ lucky for us both that none of the Russians
‘ understood French. He was a man who
‘ had lost nothing of those engaging Airs
‘ which result from a liberal education, al-
‘ though he had followed the martial trade
‘ many years : he was of an opposite tem-
‘ per to mine ; yet when we reflected upon
‘ our equal poor condition, our differences
‘ then dropt, and we became more intimate.
‘ In other respects he was a harmless and
‘ honest man, and his mistrusting me in the
‘ beginning, entirely ceased when he became
‘ more acquainted with the principles of my
‘ soul. While we were together upon the
‘ road, I modelled and framed him to my
‘ liking ; and endeavoured to bring him to
‘ such a temper as might, in some measure,
‘ compensate for the losf I had sustained of

‘ my Steeley. The nearer we approached
‘ Siberia, the more rudely were we treated,
‘ especially by those who were to pass us fur-
‘ ther ; but Remour (that was the major’s
‘ name) and I took hardly any notice of all
‘ the affronts which were offered us : let the
‘ mob go on in their wild behaviour, said the
‘ major to me every time we were insulted
‘ by them, we are nevertheless brave and ho-
‘ nest men. He, and I, and the once weal-
‘ thy Russians, were now involved in the
‘ same poverty ; and tho’ we should have
‘ had things of worth or value about us, these
‘ barbarians would soon have made them their
‘ own ; nor could our habiliments have con-
‘ cealed them from such savages. Our chief
‘ food was dry and mouldy bread ; yet this
‘ we were contented with : the cold plagued
‘ us more than any thing, and more particu-
‘ larly poor Steeley’s back, on which the in-
‘ human tormentors had left visible marks of
‘ clotted blood, rather than wounded flesh.
‘ After six weeks we arrived at Tobolskoy,
‘ the town to which we were banished ; and
‘ which (to give a hint of its situation) had
‘ the prospect of every thing that was dis-
‘ mal and terrifying to a stranger accus-
‘ tomed to a benign sky, and a more
‘ cultivated country. Being come to this
‘ town, we were brought before the Go-
‘ vernor, who ordered all of us to fol-
‘ low the employment allotted for those
‘ who are banished to this country, viz.
‘ To

to catch Ermins, the skins of which animals are sent to the court of Russia. What aggravated the severity of this sentence to my conception was, that Steeley was ordered to a place distant from that of my confinement ; and had Remour also been separated from me, I should have thought my misery insupportable. And now present to your own thoughts what a man of my condition and capacity must feel, who sees himself condemned to the meanest occupation ; who with worn-out arrows must wander in thickets to kill Ermins, or catch them with hawks, and at the same time be under the command of a fellow who perhaps has less reason and mildness in him than the brutes themselves. Were it not that even the greatest hardships seem to become lighter by length of time ; and that the greatest molestations become habitual to the body : or, to go still further ; were it not that God at intervals comforts those who labour under calamity with the thoughts of suffering innocently, and with the secret pleasure of a good conscience, my life in Siberia would have been a life of despair. How sorrowful soever the day passed with me, yet was it enjoying myself when I could see and speak to my Remour, in order to relate to him my daily sufferings, together with such passages as I had told him of, if possible, a hundred times before. To be a Slave,

• is incontestably a very great misfortune ;
• but to find a trusty companion in a fellow
• sufferer, is at the same time as great an
• happiness : each embrace, each word, each
• look of him, is a consolation inexpressible ;
• for all are signs of compassion : and what
• can revive an unfortunate prisoner more
• than being pitied in his forlorn situa-
• tion ? I should think myself guilty of
• murmuring against my destiny, were I
• to enumerate all my sufferings only,
• without taking notice of the little re-
• laxations which even the most distressed
• sometimes perceive in the variety of
• their misfortunes. The nature of things
• often seems to assume a change on pur-
• pose to favour the unfortunate, in so-
• much that what would have given me
• concern in my former happy state, gave
• me comfort in my deplorable condi-
• tion ; which I have often reflected on
• since I have had the good luck to be
• taken off this mean slavery ; and have
• traced divine providence in this with the
• greatest reverence, though not without
• an inward shuddering. Many times
• when I was on the summit of despair,
• I have discovered some other banish'd
• wretch at a distance, which has given
• me immediate relief ; even death which
• otherwise is terrible to us, has been the
• most pleasing object to me ; and the
• thoughts of that King of terrors, which

‘ at

at other times would have sunk my spirits, have most effectually supported me under the burthen which forced me to groan: from expecting to die this night or the next I have frequently fallen into a comfortable sleep, as tho' nothing had concern'd me; and when every prospect of help and relief was vanish'd from me, then religion has cherished me with the joys of another world. After I had thus lived three years in perfect slavery, and had, like the other prisoners, been obliged to earn my daily bread by bringing home a fixt number of creatures which we were to catch, the accident of saving the Polish Jew happened. This grateful Man, as I have told you before, has thro' his intercession, and by means of his money, prevailed with the Governor that I have been excused from working; and by degrees has brought it so far that I have been removed to a more spacious and luminous cell. As soon as he had procured me that favour, he endeavoured to make my confinement still more easy; by bringing me suitable cloths, and stripping me of my poor and rustic cover to which I had been long used. Dismal dress! which still hangs before my eyes, and makes me remember my former misfortune. Besides this, he provided me with several

• Fur-skins to lie upon; though in the
• beginning they only hindered my rest,
• having been used so long to lie upon
• hard boards; and he often visited me,
• but never without shewing fresh Instan-
• ces of acknowledgement for the service
• I had done him. And though my con-
• dition was very much changed for the
• better, yet was I not satisfied, because
• neither Steeley nor Remour had a share
• in it. My benefactor, indeed, at my
• request, had inquired for Steeley, and
• was informed that he had been sent to
• Pohem, about a fortnight's journey from
• Tobolskoy, but could not learn whe-
• ther he was still living. In the mean
• time the Jew had made a present to
• me of a dozen Ducats, towards my ex-
• pences in his absence: but I ventured
• to desire of him, that he would con-
• vey three of them to Remour, or that
• he would lay them out in refreshments
• for him; the rest of my gold I made
• account to save for Steeley. Accord-
• ingly he carried Remour the money;
• and to oblige me still further, he pre-
• vailed upon the Inspector the same day
• to permit Remour to spend some hours
• in my company. This was a scene of
• unexpected joy to me, as well as to
• him; for our very souls were hereby
• revived; and I was in hopes of still
• further happiness; but, alas! my poor
• Remour

• Remour soon afterwards fell sick, and
• died ; and I could not obtain the li-
• berty to see him till he was in his last
• moments, and not able to speak to me.
• In the mean time the Jew neglected
• not visiting me during his stay at To-
• bolskoy ; and he gave me several in-
• structions, together with an account of
• the Governor, and told me, that he was
• in great favour with the Czar, with
• whom he had been in Germany ; and
• that his Lady was a native of Cour-
• land, and had been intimate with Ca-
• tharina. He farther told me, that the
• Governor was a man who delighted in
• building ; and that in case I understood
• something of architecture, I might have
• a chance to ingratiate myself to him by
• that means : all which was very agree-
• able to me to hear ; and I let my be-
• nefactor know, that I was very well
• acquainted with drawing plans and mo-
• dels for several sorts of buildings ; and
• that I did not doubt of giving satis-
• faction, provided the Governor would
• furnish me with requisites ; at least that
• it would be a means to employ myself
• in my lonesomness to my own satisfa-
• ction. Accordingly I was supplied with
• proper implements ; and having exercised
• myself some weeks in designing, as soon
• as I had finished a piece, the Jew car-
• ried it to the Governor to see it. The
• next

next day I was ordered to come to his house, when I found that he had some skill in architecture; and though he was a man of great austerity, yet upon this occasion he favoured me with a more pleasing aspect, and talked to me sometimes in German, and sometimes in barbarous Latin. He was amazed to hear me speak so readily; and from that very time he seemed to have compassion for me. Were it in my power, said he to me, I would set you at liberty; but you are banished to this country for life; and I can do no more to you than make your confinement easy: as long as I live, you shall be excused from working like other prisoners, without the Jew's paying me any more upon that account: are you contented with this? I thanked him in the most submissive manner, and looked at him with an aspect imploring pity. I called all my rhetorick to aid me, while I petitioned him to shew the same generosity to a friend of mine, who had been banished to this country, as he had the goodness to manifest for me, and whose name was Steeley. You desire more of me, interrupted he, than I can promise you; however, I will consider of it: in the mean time you may set about the draught of that building of which I have been speaking to you. I then made my compliments,

pliments, and was going to withdraw;
but before I could reach the door, a
very handsome woman, of a majestick
look, entered the parlour. Stay a lit-
tle, called the Governor to me; here,
my dear, (addressing himself to this La-
dy) is the unfortunate Swede, concern-
ing whom I have lately spoken to you:
if you have a mind to it, you may talk
with him, and order him some refresh-
ment; in the mean time I will divert
myself a couple of hours with hunting.
Accordingly he went out; and his La-
dy then talked to me in a most friend-
ly manner, saying, that she had reason
to take part in my misfortunes, because
she had heard that I was a sort of a
countryman to her. She asked me a
thousand questions; and rewarded my
narrations with a compassionating atten-
tion, and with such complaisance as ba-
nished all my fear, and enabled me to
speak to her with courage and freedom.
But nothing seemed to give her more
pleasure than when she heard me de-
scribe your beauty, and your good qua-
lities, together with my ardent wishes
to see you, my angel, once more. Af-
ter she had heard me thus above an hour,
she resumed her turn to speak to me:
I pity you, said she; and your merits
should soon give you a reverse of for-
tune, were I nearer the court: never-
theless

• theless it is possible that I may in time
• contribute towards your return into your
• own country: the extraordinary love
• which you express for your wife, even
• beyond the usual fondness which your
• sex shews to woman, together with your
• misfortune, are sufficient motives to offer
• you my friendship; and I shall always
• have an esteem for you, though your
• commanders treat you as a slave. If
• being commiserated can ease anguish, you
• may promise yourself that you shall par-
• take of my concern for you, as long as
• you are forced to be in a country where
• barbarity supplies the place of humanity:
• had I my will, you should sit down
• with me to dinner; but I fear my hus-
• band's displeasure, were I to treat you
• according to your merits. Upon this
• she took a bottle of wine off the ta-
• ble, which was ready laid, and graci-
• ously drank to me under the soothing
• sanction of your health. This her ge-
• norous behaviour had such an effect up-
• on me, that I could not forbear from
• shedding tears; nor could I any longer
• conceal my real name from her, but
• humbling myself before her, madam,
• said I, permit me to thank you upon
• my knees for your signal favours to me,
• and give me leave to assure you, that
• every thing what I have related, is real
• truth. And since I promise myself great
• relief

• relief from your tender compassion, I
• cannot longer forbear to add one thing
• more, though the confession of it should
• be attended with very dangerous conse-
• quences to me. In short, madam, I am
• the Count of G*, though I gratefully
• accept of your kindness under the name
• of Lowenhock; but I beseech you, by
• your own noble soul, and by that of
• my wife's, not to discover my true name;
• upon which she raised me in a polite
• manner; and I began to give her an
• account of my misfortunes in the army.
• Good God! did she cry out, are you
• the Count of G*? My husband has known
• your father very well when he was am-
• bassador in Moscow—unfortunate Count!
• Pray let my husband know nothing of
• this: for though I have no reason to
• complain of his temper to me, yet to
• others he shews himself to be of a fiery
• and revengeful humour; and how easily
• may it happen that you offend him in-
• advertently! Pray behave yourself always
• to him submissively, but in particular
• at such times when he seems to be most
• gracious to you: without this you run
• the hazard of adding to your sufferings.
• He loves money; and therefore, I think,
• if the Jew were to make a present to
• him now and then, you would fare the
• better for it. I have no ready mo-
• ney, continued she, to assist you with
• in

‘ in your present circumstances ; but I
‘ have jewels, of which my husband does
‘ not know, and of which I will fetch
‘ you some. The Jew is an honest man,
‘ and will pay you, at least, half the
‘ value of them ; but I would not have
‘ you tell him whence you had them.
‘ Upon this she stept into her dressing
‘ room, and brought down two small
‘ golden frames set very rich with precious
‘ stones, which I fancied were taken off
‘ two portraits : accept, said she to me,
‘ of this present, as a proof of my wil-
‘ lingness to make your misfortune more
‘ tolerable to you : perhaps I shall never
‘ have the opportunity again to speak to
‘ you by ourselves ; and therefore once
‘ more I assure you of my compassion and
‘ esteem for you, and desire you to re-
‘ gard me as your friend, even when I
‘ shall be obliged to act the part of a
‘ commander over you. Now you may
‘ return to your lonesome place of con-
‘ finement : I will try whether I can pre-
‘ vail with my husband to order your
‘ friend to be quarter’d in this place, that
‘ you may enjoy yourselves together : but
‘ I cannot absolutely promise this. Go
‘ then—farewel—poor Count !

‘ Upon this I returned, as it were, in tri-
‘ umph, to my dismal home, and thought
‘ myself honour’d and happy in the hands
‘ of Barbarians : to such a degree had the
‘ compassion

compassion of this generous lady filled my heart with vivid expectations. In a few days after, the Jew came to visit me: but before I acquainted him how I had been received by the Governor, I pretended that I had had the good-luck to find in my deceased friend's old cloths some valuable things which perhaps would enable me to make a return for the charges and trouble which he had bestowed upon my account. He looked upon the two little frames with astonishment, and seemed to believe what I had advanced: these are valuable things indeed, said my Jew to me; and to give you an instance of my honest intentions to you, I can tell you, that they are worth above five thousand crowns: if you will trust me with them, I will sell them for you to a Jew who deals in Jewels. A man, answered I, who has been such an extraordinary friend as you have been to me, I would trust with a kingdom, were I the Sovereign of it. But, interrupted he, what will you do with so much money? It may happen that one time or other they will take it from you. Do you know what I will do? I will deposit the money which I shall receive for the jewels, into the hands of a Jew who is settled here, and who shall not wrong you of a farthing: I will tell him, that I leave so much money

• money with him for your use: the
• same will I do to the Governor, be-
• fore I set out for my return to Poland;
• and add, that I have, on account of
• your having saved my life, left you suf-
• ficient means, not only to live upon du-
• ring my absence, but also, if possible,
• to procure your liberty in a short time:
• to all which I gave my consent. Ac-
• cordingly he sold my jewels for five
• thousand crowns, and brought me a
• thousand of them in money, and the
• rest in notes. I offered him two hun-
• dred crowns for his trouble; but he
• would accept of them upon no other
• condition than at his departure to make
• a present of them to the Governor, and
• at the same time to recommend me to
• his favour, which was accordingly done;
• and this peculiar stratagem of bribing
• the avaritious Governor with his own
• money had so good an effect, that his
• excellency desired the Jew to assure me
• that I should soon have my friend
• Steeley for my companion, especially if
• he should be skilled in architecture.
• The Jew is now ready to set out for
• Poland, and I shall lose my best friend
• by this good and honest man; yet I
• willingly should lose him, provided he
• proves but instrumental to make us ac-
• quainted with our mutual circumstances.
• He knows how to give a thorough ac-

count

120 120

FC

10
92

• count of my present state of life; and
 • has most solemnly promis'd, neither to
 • betray me, nor to rest, till he has got
 • intelligence of you; nay, in order to
 • execute his commission without being
 • at expences, he has condescended to ac-
 • cept of an hundred crowns towards tra-
 • velling charges and other incidents up-
 • on our account. The good and honest
 • man is come to bid me farewell, and
 • to put up my letters. Where-ever you
 • are, I embrace you with a most un-
 • feigned love for you: ah! that my
 • condition would continue in its present
 • favourable appearance: then should I
 • recover my hopes of seeing you again,
 • and forget all my former sufferings in
 • your arms. Supplicate Heaven for this
 • happiness—O! yes, my dear life, I hope
 • providence will grant it to us.

P. S. ‘ As Steeley is not yet come to
 • this place, I have under the name
 • of Lowenhock written to his father
 • in London, and likewise to the
 • English Ambassador at Stockholm,
 • to give to both of them an ac-
 • count of my friend's new misfor-
 • tune.’

These are the two letters which the
 Count sent to me while he was prisoner.
 And because he spent fifteen months longer
 in

in Siberia, after the dispatch of the last letter, I shall give the particulars of his story during that period in the same order as he delivered them to me, at his return.

In about three weeks after the Jew's departure from Tobolskoy, said the Count to me, I was sent for by the Governor; when I, with great submission, delivered the draught to him, which he had ordered me to design, and which he seemed not to mislike; yet he being the Governor, and I his prisoner, perhaps he thought it beneath him to acknowledge the satisfaction I had given him, though his heart might have prompted him to reward my labour with such a confession, at least. He asked me, whether it was true, that the Jew had left so much money for me? and mentioned the sum; to which I answered in the affirmative. Upon this he ordered the prisoner to be brought in: but, who think you this prisoner was? — Why, my dear Steeley, whom I had not seen for almost four years past. I forgot that I was before the Governor; and exceeding the bounds of moderation, ran to embrace my friend at his entering the parlour. He shall be your companion, said the Governor; but for how long a time, I cannot tell. I understood the meaning of these words very well; and begged his Excellency would permit me to deposit a thousand crowns with him, for

for the support of my friend. You may do it, said he to me ; but upon no other account than to be a security for your good behaviours. Accordingly the Jew, whose notes I had, was sent for, and he paid the thousand crowns ; at the same time the Governor gave him leave to visit me, and to supply me with necessaries, as the former Jew had done. And now I had the liberty to go with my Steeley hand-in-hand to my cell, whither we repaired with great eagerness, hoping to open our hearts there, and to ease them, by telling each other the many things which had befallen us during our separation. But after we were come to our home, it was a considerable while before we began to talk ; for being transported with joy, we did nothing but look and gaze at one another : at last I began the conference, by looking out clean linen for him, and a suit of cloths with which the Jew had furnished me before he left Tobolskoy ; but Steeley for gladness was not able to put them on, without my helping him. He look'd upon the things which I gave him, with astonishment, as tho' he had forgot the use of them ; at last, being dressed, he looked upon himself without intermission. And though I had several times asked him, how it had gone with him, yet he made no other answer than, how it has gone with me, my dear Count—How it has gone with me? that was all : and I believe if

if he should have answered to my interrogatories, I should hardly have given attention to his narrations, so great were my commotions of joy and friendship. I gave him half a glass of wine, because I had no more, and put him in mind of his treating me with that liquor at Moscow. By degrees we came to ourselves again ; and we had so much to tell one another, that we did not know where to begin : several days as well as nights passed away in this occupation ; and as many in recounting our past tribulations. Steeley, indeed, has suffered much more than I, both in Moscovy and in Siberia ; for here he has not only lived four years in perfect slavery, without a friend, or one who would have pitied him ; but, what added still more to his misery, he has had the misfortune to have Knee Eskin, a fellow prisoner, for his companion. This monster of a man was a greater plague to poor Steeley than all his other hardships, and made his tenement an image of hell to him, especially at night when he wanted to rest himself after the fatigues of the day : and to shew the barbarous nature of Knee Eskin, among the numberless injuries which he did to Steeley, I will instance but this one. Steeley happened to fall so very ill one time, as not to be able to get up to help himself, and therefore was obliged to wait till Eskin's return out of the forests ; when Steeley begg'd of him to help him to the drinking

drinking vessel with water, because he was very dry: are you really very dry? ask'd Eskin: I am glad of it—I have often been dry myself—and how insignificant are you to me, who am a Prince? Upon this he drinks the water up himself, and throws the vessel down before Steeley: there, says Eskin, with a loud laugh, drink the rest. Can any thing be more galling, than to have to do with such a brute? But, let me tell you what follows. In less than a twelve-month Eskin happens in his frenzies to abuse one of his inspectors, who chastises him so very severely for it, that he is dragged half dead to his hovel: besides this, his allowance of bread is denied him for two days; but Steeley is so generous as to give him part of his; and helps him to water as often as he can; he even washes his wounds, and gives him all the assistance which an unhappy prisoner can afford to another under the same circumstances. This charitable deportment touches the Barbarian, who squeezing Steeley's hand, says to him, pray forgive me that I have not carried myself so well to you, as you do to me: and, indeed, this was no feigned acknowledgment of Eskin's: for when he was recovered, he was less troublesome to Steeley; though his rustic nature would frequently be uppermost. All the comfort which Steeley has had since he and I were separated, proceeded from the good nature of

of a Cossac young woman who happened to take notice of him in the last year before his return to Tobolskoy ; and who witnesses, that even uncivilized and wild nations are not without some members who have a natural propensity to laudable actions.

Steeley one day happened to have the good-luck to catch his number of Ermins sooner than ordinary, in the district which was assigned for him near Poheim ; and as this afforded him some leisure time in his return home, he lay down close to a well, to rest himself. Whilst he was thus refreshing his spirits, a well-made young woman comes to the place where he was, and looks upon him for a while ; at last she sits down by the well, and scooping up the water in the hollow of her hand, to drink ; poor stranger, said she to Steeley, don't you chuse to drink ? He tells her, that he had been drinking already : but, returned she, will you not accept of a draught of water out of my hand ? Pray do—I pity you as often as I see you this way ; and I am not come hither for the sake of drinking, but to tell you my concern for you. Steeley is surprized, and knows not what answer to return. Ah ! proceeds she, why will you not speak to me ? I am sorry I came hither upon your account—but I promise you that I will no come again. Upon this Steeley looks modestly at her, and tells her that he is greatly obliged for the compassion which she seems

seems to have for him; and as a token of his gratitude offers her his hand, which she guides and presses now to her lips, and then to her breast: after this she diverts herself with fingering the locks of his black curled hair, and sooths him after her manner, without ceasing. At last he prepares to go— Oh! cries she, stay a little longer! My eyes are not yet satisfied with beholding you: I wish every man in this country looked like you; then it would be very pretty in Siberia—But if you are obliged to go; will you soon return again to this place? I have a great deal to tell you, but I do not remember what: I knew it before I came to you; but I have forgot it now by playing with your hair. Speaking in this manner, she looks into the clear well, and discovers her likeness: but tell me, says she, do I actually look as I do in the water? I have black eyes as well as you—I like yours: do you like mine? Are my teeth as white as yours? Yes, answers he, they are, and you are handsome; but let me go, for I am an unfortunate prisoner: and then she turns homewards, with eyes full of tears. When Steeley goes out the next morning to follow his disagreeable occupation, he finds the young woman already sitting by the well, and waiting for him. She intreats him to sit down, and obliges him to accept of a piece of bread and honey from her hand. Do you see, says she:—though

I love myself to eat, yet I rather see you feed upon what I have brought with me : I have likewise some Ermins for you, which my lovers have given me ; and now you may be with me all this day. For the future I will make them give me some every day, and I will bring them to you—Do give me a kind look—you hear what I intend to do for you. Upon this she plays again with his hair in a very innocent manner, and begs a lock of it ; shewing him at the same time a pair of scissars which she had brought on purpose. Steeley who was pleased with the unfeigned and innocent love of this female Coffack's, satisfies her desire, and she rewards him with some kisses, and shews him a little cottage at a distance, in which she tells him that her father lives. Then she takes a leaf off a tree, and blows it, telling him, that now her brother would come for whom she had appointed this blast as a signal : hadst thou not parted with the lock of hair freely, we should have forced thee to it : but be not afraid of him ; he is like me, and will do thee no harm. Dost thou see (calls she to her brother, when he came nigh her) this is the stranger for whom I have so much value—look upon him, and tell him how often I have spoken to thee about him ;—and be so good as to shew him in what places he may catch his number of Ermins with ease ;—look also for some hollow tree, or other convenience

nience here about, where I may now and then leave some bread, fish, and honey for the poor stranger. Pray do it, and I will do as much for you as I can. The brother promises to do it, and takes Steeley to several places where he assures him to meet with success: he shews him likewise such a place as would suit his sister to deposit her marks of liberality and good-nature; of which she makes use of accordingly, not only to hide what provisions she can, for Steeley, but also to meet him there, either in the morning, or evening: and not only met him at her store-place, but stay'd with him often half the day, and sometimes longer, whilst her brother did her new favourite's work. When Steeley was convinced of the generous heart of his wild beauty, he took great care to form her, and to purge her capacious genius from the rough taints of her education: and he has had the satisfaction to see that his trouble has been well bestowed upon her; for love made her brisk and lively; and in a short time she became tractable, and arrived to such a share of good sense, that he no longer scrupled to give her marks of his affection: but their agreeable meetings were of no long duration; because after three months Steeley, with some other prisoners, were removed to another district, twenty werfts from Pohem; and it was from thence that he was recalled to

G 2 Tobolskoy.

Tobolskoy, and therefore never has had the opportunity to see his female friend again.

Steeley and I living again together, we settled our oeconomy to the best of our circumstances. The Governor had given me proper implements for drawing; and the little knowledge which I had of mathe-maticks, assisted me in maintaining his fluctuating favour. I instructed Steeley in this branch of science as well as I could: and because he had not yet forgot his arithmetick, in less than six months he was as perfect as I in all our exercises. Accordingly we worked, as I may say, for a wager; and the Governor could not have inflicted a greater punishment upon us than to forbid us to practise, and to oblige us to idleness: however, he took care not to let us want work: he gave us papers of accompts, and a thousand old models to copy them; and I believe there is not a ruined castle in Siberia, and all Moscovy, of which we have not made a draught. 'Tis true, he did not permit us to come to his house, but he visited us himself frequently once a week. As for our part, we acknowledged this favour with all marks of submissiveness and gratitude; and he again made himself amends for his condescension by finding fault with us in every thing; and by talking to us in an imperious tone, whenever we happened to address him in too familiar a sense. What pleased me much,

was

was to see Steeley changed in his temper; who notwithstanding his former national pride, and spirit of contradiction, behaved now considerably more moderate; for he was mute, as soon as he heard the Governor find fault with him; yet this would not always satisfy the former; for he expected Steeley to answer him, and to approve of his emendations, though they should be ever so wrong. This touched Steeley's very soul, and his preternatural efforts to do it had such an extraordinary effect upon him, as sometimes to make the muscles of his face more protulent. One time the Governor found us playing at draughts; for Steeley had form'd and cut the men with a knife as well as he could, and therefore they were not so neatly finish'd as they should be; which gave the Governor an opportunity to make a long dissertation, tending to prove, that there was neither symmetry nor neatness in the men: my friend acknowledged their defect, and excused himself with not having had instruments to do them better; but he would not allow of this: if they were as they should be, said the Governor, they ought to look as though they were worked by a turner; and you may see that they are not so; for here they have too much, and there they have too little: in short, they are cut very coarse and clumsy. In making such idle observations he spent several

hours ; and became so troublesome, that Steeley at last dreaded his coming. The Governor would often sit down by us when we were drawing, and fill a pipe of our tobacco ; and when he had smoaked it with great satisfaction, would throw down the pipe, and curse us for not having better commodity. Sometimes he upbraided us with his exempting us from the ordinary labour ; and thereby obliged us to acknowledge his goodness, and to beg that he would continue his favour to us. He often came to us in a most violent passion, and cursed the prisoners, without telling us who they were, and what they had done to incense him ; yet we were obliged to hear all this extravagance with patience. It is true, we were partly beholden to him for our advantageous condition ; yet notwithstanding all the comforts which we otherwise might have enjoyed, he was a terror to us. We knew his insatiable temper, and feared every day that he would separate us again, and treat us like other slaves. To prevent which I agreed with the Jew to make him at seasonable times a present of some money.

It was now a twelve-month that Steeley had been with me again ; and I began from day to day to hope for an answer from you to the letter which I sent by the Jew ; but I hoped in vain : Steeley had likewise received no return to what he had written to London,

London, and to the English Ambassador at Stockholm ; neither had I seen the Governor's Lady since my first intercourse with her, when she presented me with the two valuable little frames : the consideration of all which made us dull and melancholy ; and the more tolerable our confinement was, the more grievous appeared our confinement to us. But what hopes could we entertain of this, when the war with Russia and Sweden grew hotter, instead of abating ? Under these reflections Steeley and I happened one afternoon to stand before our little window, when I perceiv'd the Jew come hastily towards our tenement ; and because it was not his usual time to visit me, and because he looked of a chearful countenance, I concluded he had a letter for me from his correspondent the Polish Jew. And indeed it was a letter, but it was from the Governor's Lady, who sent me the following lines, which the Count read to me, and of which I have the original still in my possession, in these terms :

S I R,

• **I** Acquaint you with a matter, which I
 • **I** should have chosen to have delivered
 • by word of mouth, that I might have
 • had the satisfaction to behold and to par-
 • take of your joy. You are free ; and
 • the order concerning your liberty arrived
 • yesterday by an officer who has brought

‘ fresh prisoners with him. To-morrow
‘ you and four more who have been banished
‘ to this country, are to be brought to Mos-
‘ cow in the same manner as you have been
‘ conducted hither; and from thence you
‘ may go whither you please: I have pro-
‘ cured you your liberty by a female friend,
‘ who has considerable interest at court:
‘ but my husband knows not that I have
‘ commiserated your misfortune; neither
‘ shall it come to the knowledge of any
‘ body else; it is sufficient for me that you
‘ know it. And though my services would
‘ appear more eminent, had I not acquaint-
‘ ed you with them myself, which indeed
‘ I at first propos'd; yet as I find myself
‘ too weak, and perceive that it is more easy
‘ to enter upon a good action, than not to
‘ publish it, I desire you would overlook
‘ this little vanity of mine, which I reserve
‘ to myself as a reward for my good inten-
‘ tions. I doubt whether I shall have the
‘ satisfaction to speak to you before you set
‘ out for Moscow; at least not by ourselves:
‘ I wish therefore with all sincerity, that
‘ you may soon have the happiness to disco-
‘ ver your spouse again. How will she love
‘ me, for having given her Count to her
‘ again! As for your friend whom you
‘ leave here, I will take care of him. Fare-
‘ wel; and let me know whether you have
‘ met with your spouse. If I have my
‘ wishes,

wishes, I still hope to change this melancholy country for my native climate: but these are only hopes; it is more likely that I have the misfortune to end my life here. Pray do not omit to write to me. I have a sister-in law in Courland, to whom I address the inclosed letter, of which I hope you will charge yourself with the safe delivery; and if your circumstances should require it, I believe you may meet with a satisfactory reception. She is a widow; but I have not heard from her these two years. Farewell once more.

Amalia L—

The reading of this letter (and who would wonder at it) put me into such an extasy of joy, that I ran into Steeley's arms to tell him the contents, though I was not able to speak: however he would not stay till I had recovered myself, but took the letter out of my hands, to read it, while I rested my head upon his shoulders, that I might not behold the change which the news of my liberty, and his continued bondage, should make in his countenance. So—you are free! was his first salutation; and I am not only to lose you, but must remain a prisoner, and become more miserable than before!—This is terrible! Is Heaven more partial to you than to me?—But I shall have time enough to lament when you shall be no longer with

G 5

me:

me: I know it is impossible for you to forget me—no (embracing me) you cannot forget me! It was some time before I could answer him; and this made him as uneasy as if I had truly offended him, though my silence proceeded from nothing else than love and tenderness for him. However, I waited till his agitations had ceased; and after a little reprimand perceived him to be calm enough to unfold my heart to him, and to convince him how imperfect my liberty was without his enjoying the same happiness. I agreed with the Jew to pay me one third of my money for travelling expences, and after deducting what he was to have for his trouble, to keep the rest for Steeley's use. But the Jew was more careful than I, and advised me to take as little money with me as I could, for fear of its being taken from me before I should reach Moscow: accordingly he gave me a small sum of money, and the rest in four assignations to a Jew in that city, that I might have some left, if I should chance to be deprived of another. In the evening I was order'd to come to the Governor, who was in one of his gouty paroxysms; and therefore in the presence of his wife, and a-bed, acquainted me with my being no longer a slave; by giving me his hand, and saying, I have orders to send you again to Moscow; which I shall do to-morrow about noon—I lose you unwillingly; but the divine protection attend you, and be

be more fortunate than you have been hitherto. I then kissed his hand, in real gratitude, and begged of him to continue his favours to Steeley. If I live, said he, he shall not fare worse than he has done hitherto. He bid me sit down, and told me, that he had a great deal to say to me: but his pains coming upon him very violently, he gave me a sign to leave him; which I did, and in going out, testified my utmost thanks to his Lady for her great and singular kindness, by all the means which gratitude can express. Farewel, sir, said she; and immediately turned to her husband. As soon as I was returned to Steeley, I wrote a letter to my patroness, because I had not had an opportunity to thank this generous Lady by word of mouth, and gave it to the Jew, who in the mean time got the notes ready, and provided for me furs against the severe cold, with other things which he knew I should want in my journey. Now every thing was settled, and I passed the whole night in conversing with my friend. We talked, we cried, and we felt all that our different circumstances could bring to our mind. Morning overtook us, and so did noon; and even till the last moment we had a variety of before unthought circumstances to tell each other. The Jew came and gave me notice that the sledges to carry me and the others who were set at liberty, would be presently ready. Upon this Steeley and I took

took farewell, without speaking to each other; and I forgot myself in the arms of my faithful friend, till the guard disengaged us: he pushed me from him, and at the last moment would have followed me; but the door was locked upon him, and my Jew conducted me into the sledge, and then left me.

I and three more were put into one sledge, and nothing but hope and joy appeared in their countenances; though I cannot well tell the emotions of my own soul, not only during the first hours, but two days together; for an excess of joyful vibrations, and melancholy repulsions counteracted each other in my heart. I perceived that now we were not treated with such contempt as we were in going to Siberia at the stations where we changed rendeers; and those of my company were not the most unciviliz'd men; for they never offended me designedly: they were three Russians, who did not want for money, but provided themselves every where with as much brandy as kept them intoxicated all the way; and they would have shewn more friendship to me would I have drank with them to the same degree of intemperance. Towards the end of March we arrived in Moscow, and I was carried to the same house where I had been confined five years before, and where I found the same man who inspected the prisoners at the former time. Three days after I was

I was fully discharged, and had a pass given me to proceed whither I would. I had lost none of the four notes which intitled me to a thousand crowns and upwards: and now I went among the English merchants who had been very kind to Steeley; and to one of them (whose name was Thomson) I delivered a billet which my friend had sent him by me. He receiv'd me with great civility, and told me, that he had been inform'd of Steeley's misfortune by the inspector of the prisoners; and that he had acquainted his London friends with it, who in three years time had sent several letters to him, addressed to the English agent in Moscow; and to whom we went the next day. This agent was one of the most agreeable men in the world; he shewed us the most moving letters which Steeley's father had sent to him; and produced the memorials which he had delivered to the Senate in behalf of my friend; assuring me at the same time that his confinement should not last long after the return of the Czar into his dominions, which was expected very soon. The English Ambassador in Sweden had likewise written to the Agent, and intreated him to contribute to Steeley's liberty whatever he could; and having given me the letters which had been sent to him for Steeley, Thomson carried me to the Jew, to whom I was directed to be paid; and in ten days after I received the money; though Thomson

son gave me but little hopes of any ; and I lost no more than an hundred and fifty rubles, by a Jew who had been reduced to very low circumstances. Those of his non-religion, indeed, promised to satisfy me in a twelve-month, if he should not then be in a condition to pay me himself ; but I tore the note, and gave the poor Jews ten crowns besides. I desired them to convey some letters for me to their correspondent the Jew in Siberia ; and was told, that three of them would shortly go to Tobolskoy ; and if I could stay two months here, they would shew that they had performed their promise, by bringing an answer back. Accordingly I writ to my friend ; but before the letter went away, the Agent sent for me, to tell me, that at last he had made himself of some consequence to his countryman, by having procured his enlargement to be signed by the Senate ; with a promise that in three or four months he should be brought back from Siberia, and be set at liberty. I thanked him most cordially for having exerted himself in my friend's behalf ; and hastened home to insert this joyful postscript in my letter to Steeley. The Jews then departed for Siberia, and I had actually proposed to stay in Moscow for Steeley's arrival ; but love proved above friendship, and the strong desire to find you again, made my stay in Moscow intolerable ; I wanted therefore to leave it, without knowing whither to go :

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the correspondence and commerce with Sweden was still prohibited ; and I therefore proposed to go to Denmark, in hopes to find you there : but Thomson persuaded me to chuse Holland, and told me of a ship which he had the commission to freight, and which lay ready at Archangel to sail from thence with the first fair wind. Accordingly he gave me his address to the owner of the cargo, to whom he promised to send Steeley's letters for me, and desired me to leave notice with the merchant what course I should take, if I left Holland, that my friend might know whither to follow me at his return from Siberia. Upon this I left Moscow six weeks after my coming thither, with the before-mentioned ship, which so accidentally and happily has brought me to your sight again.

This is the substance of what my Count has told me of his condition in Siberia, exclusive of what he had communicated to me in writing. I have collected what I have thought most material ; which I have drawn up in as concise a manner as I thought would be agreeable to the reader ; and in this view I have omitted whatever I found relating to the geography and history of that country, in which many alterations have happened, especially since the building of Petersburgh by the Czar Peter the First ; under whose auspicious reign the Moscovite nation has

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I come now to the last period of this history, which commences with what has occurred after the Count my husband's return; when we began our second marriage, as I may say, which proved as agreeable to us as the first; and my husband enjoyed the pleasure of domestic tenderness and repose with the more satisfaction after his long fatigues and hardships. His former bloom was rekindled in his cheeks, and he recovered that charming vivacity which his misfortunes had in a great measure extinguished. The first months passed away, chiefly in various discourses and entertaining conversations with Mariane and Sir R—; among which was one that was not altogether to my liking; when the Count once pressed me to give him a full detail of my marriage with Sir R—, and that in the presence of the latter; during my narration of which the Count held me by the hand, to encourage me, as it were, to tell him all the particulars of that affair; and I began my story with tolerable spirit, because I was very well assured of my Count's sincerity in his love to me; and I was also convinced within myself, that I never should have been faithless to him, had I had but the least notice of his being alive: yet all this would not support me in delivering myself clearly; for I proposed to be genuine in my account, and yet cautious; and

and the further I went in my oration, the more conscious was I of touching upon such circumstances as would prove offensive to the Count, and affecting to Sir R—and me: which made me timorous to proceed. The Count observing a faintness in my speech, and judging it to proceed from an apprehension of offending him with the sequel of my discourse; go on, my dear (said he) with courage: I assure you upon my word and honour, that I shall take no umbrage at any thing which still remains to complete this story; but I came no farther than to the birth of my daughter: and though I attempted several times to recover my spirits, and to go to the end of my marriage account with Sir R—, yet my heart denied me its assistance in proceeding, and advised me to have done. Now, said the Connt with a pleasing countenance, I will press you no longer; but am contented with what I have given you the trouble to relate; and which I pronounce shall be your punishment for having been faithless to me; and embraced me upon it: and you my dear friend, turning to Sir R—, be not dejected, but raise your eyes, and let the beholding your former wife in my arm, be an atonement for the injury which you have done me; and then he embraced Sir R—, and bid me do the like. What more need be said; continued the Count to his friend! she loved you, because you deserved it; and if I die before you,

you, she will love you again: none of us can reproach the other with an error, but must charge destiny with what has happened: see, Mariane (added the Count), how my wife looks at you! Could she have revenged herself more politely, than by bringing you into our company upon this occasion?

And now I became indefatigable in my endeavours to restore to the Count every moment which he had passed without me; and therefore seldom came from his side: before I had made an end of pleasing him in one thing, my thoughts were already employed what should be the next that would give him pleasure: when our hearts were exhausted by speaking, I sat down to read to him; and when I could read no longer, he relieved me, and delighted me with the expressive sound which he gave to every word. This happy occupation, and looking into the contents of the best writings, which the Count had been long deprived of, took up the greatest part of the day, and enlarged itself in our discourses, at our meals, and in all our tender conversation: we frequented no company, yet we never found occasion to charge time with slowness; and when in the midst of our amusements we thought to give a loose to our satisfactions, we rehearsed the various labyrinths, out of which providence had winded the instruments for enjoying our present happiness. Those who never have languished under great misfortunes,

tunes, are not capable to judge of the very extensive pleasure which the consideration of them affords: we divest ourselves at such times at once of all our innate pride: we perceive our incapacity of extricating ourselves out of our difficulties, or of making ourselves happy; and therefore in a transport of thankfulness, lift our eyes up to merciful providence, and at the same time commit its unerring decision to the issue of a future destiny with resignation. To meditate on such subjects, and to the pursuit of such reflections, the Count dedicated sometimes whole days, and employed himself at such times more assiduously in the exercise of godlike benevolence, by enquiring after the distressed and indigent; and by comforting and relieving, with great chearfulness, poor, sick, and confined objects of charity. He often would send for such as were reported to groan under great age and want; whom he entertained at a separate table; and would be pleased if they proved to be people deserving of his bounty: however, he made no strict scrutiny to find out whom he might, on account of their demerits, exclude from the participation of his charity: they may perhaps be gained by kindness, said he, and mend upon a principle of gratitude: therefore let them enjoy what I have provided; though they do not at present deserve it—they are nevertheless men. When he perceived that they had almost done eating, he would

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go amongst them, and hear them tell the casualties that had brought them to their low circumstances ; and if he found any of them to be of an open and noble nature, he would give them particular marks of his favour. In these his laudable pursuits he was assisted by Sir R—, who was of the same charitable disposition ; and where my husband and he could not act as benefactors, they supplied the place of counsellors.

On such days we commonly used to divert ourselves either with walking in some garden, or with taking the air in the fields. One evening in particular we and Sir R— took a turn in the coach to refresh ourselves after a hot and sultry summer's day ; and because the moon shone very bright, and that we might have the full benefit of the reviving breezes of the evening, we stept out of the coach, and went to walk. Accordingly we turned into a pleasant meadow ; which we scarce had entered, before we heard a lamentable voice, and therefore endeavoured to get to the place from whence we perceived it to come ; and having with much difficulty walked through long grass and uneven ground, we came in sight of the person whose cries had interrupted us in our intended pleasure. She was a young woman who was just fallen in labour, and now in a helpless condition : Sir R— therefore immediately got into the coach, and went to the first house he could discover, to fetch a woman

woman and other necessaries to assist this unfortunate creature in her delivery ; and I, in the mean time, did her all the service I could, and which necessity required. By her looks, I could guess that she was neither of high, nor of very low birth ; and her youth and fair complexion were sufficient for us to judge partly whence her fate had its rise, though she was not able to express herself so as to be understood. Sir R—, who had made all possible dispatch, returned by this time with some women who had thought it their duty to comply with his request. Whereupon we order'd the poor young stranger to be carried off, and taken care of in the next village ; and we went home a-foot. Well, said the Count, whilst we were returning, this walk is worth all our good actions of to-day : with what composure shall we go to rest, whilst we please ourselves with the thoughts of having saved the lives of two people at once ! The poor creature, out of shame, perhaps had fled from her friends, to hide from them the mournful pains of her stolen pleasures. Who knows but some perjured villain may have deceived her, and under the veil of marriage taken advantage of her innocence. As soon as day appeared, Carolina and I went in a coach to the village, where we found the unfortunate young creature drowned in tears, with her child in her arms. We observed in her countenance that she was not only

only an handsome, but a beauteous woman, and her particular modest looks excused her from being blamed for her error : love, said she, or rather a lover, has made me more unhappy than I deserve to be : almost two years are past since we bound ourselves to each other by a voluntary obligation ; but my guardian, who though advanced in years, thought fit to make a selfish use of his authority by constraining my tender years to his loathsome embraces, has hindered our marriage : my lover, who is a farmer's son not far from Leyden, has seduced me, with my consent however, and promised me to set up as a merchant at the Hague : when we yesterday came to the place where you found me, I was taken with a sickness, which obliged me to get off the waggon ; and my lover, who hitherto had appeared very faithful to me, led me along the fields, in hopes that motion would bring me right again : but I was obliged to sit down at last ; and as soon as he perceived what would happen to me, the wicked man forsook me under a pretext of looking out for help ; I therefore waited for his return all that day, though in vain ; and it was rather my surprize at his perfidy, than the fruit of my love which threw me into that senseless condition, from which your humanity has most generously freed me : could any one be more base than he has been to me ? He has taken with him my gold necklace, besides very rich toys,

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(in which consisted all my rich.s) which we proposed to sell, and to employ the money in settling ourselves at the Hague: yet for all that I do not hate him, and would freely forgive his forsaking me in the utmost danger of my life, did I but know that he felt any remorse for it . . . I endeavoured to pacify her in her miserable circumstances, and promised her, that if her false friend returned not to her within a week, I would take care of her and the child: and as he did not come in that time, I fulfilled my promise, by taking the unfortunate woman into our house, and having the child brought up in the village.

The Count had now lived six months with me again, and in that time had not shewn the least inclination of returning to his native country; neither do I believe he would have looked upon it as a favour to be called home again; for he knew that the Prince of S—, the instrument of all my misfortunes, was still alive, and in great favour with the King; what inducement, therefore, could he have to long for Sweden? What concerned him most was, that Steeley did not come, and that he had received no answer of his letters to him. 'Tis true, Steeley's father had written to the Count from London some months since, and acquainted him, that by the interest of the English Ambassador, and by paying a mulct of some thousand dollars, his son's banishment

ment to Siberia was revoked ; but that neither he nor his friends in Moscow had been inform'd of it by himself.

While the Count was thus disappointed in expecting Steeley, an accident happened which gave him great satisfaction. He and Sir R— were used, an hour before dinner, to go to the coffee-house, where chiefly foreigners resorted : one day he went, as usual, to spend an hour in their company ; but when he was gone about half that time, he sent a messenger to tell me, that he would bring a stranger with him ; and to request that I would order a room to be got ready for him. He came home at our ordinary time of dinner, and the stranger with him : but who should he be ?—The honest Jew who had treated him with unparalleled humanity in Siberia, and whose business had obliged him to come to Holland. My husband was inexpressibly rejoiced at this opportunity to shew the obligation he had for this noble spirited man, who was no less pleased to meet with the Count so unexpectedly, and in so happy a condition : at the same time he delivered my husband's letter to me from Siberia, which I have already inserted ; and assured me that he had used his utmost endeavours to find me out, in Livonia and Denmark, but that he could not in either of these countries get the least information of my abode. As to the Jew in particular,

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his heart actually corresponded with his honest and worthy looks, and made his rusticity excusable. He was a man advanced in years; and his gray beard, together with his long Polish fur gown, gave him a reverend aspect. Our friendly manner of conversing with him, and shewing our regard for his person, affected him to his very heart: the first time he had dined with us, when the tables were removed, the good man seemed to be concerned; which made my husband ask him what had given occasion to his sudden change of countenance? Ah! said the old Israelite, could I but be so happy to stay some hours longer with you! In all my days I never enjoyed that satisfaction which I now have; and never did any one treat me in such a generous manner as you do. The Count then took him by the hand, and conducted him to the room which had been prepared for him: look, says he, the Countess has given you her best room; is not this a sign of our regard for you? Pray do not think of leaving us in less than a week, at least—Is it not true I live here better than in Siberia?—There you served me; and here both my consort and I will wait upon you: which in fact we did; for Carolina, Sir R—, and all of us contributed our endeavours to make these eight days so many days of pleasure and satisfaction to our guest. When the evening drew nigh, and the sun was set, we observed that he left us abruptly,

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ly, and retired to his chamber, where he commonly continued half an hour. And having repeated this three or four times, we asked him the reason for his absenting himself from us ; but he made use of subterfuges, and told us, that he was used at such times to set down the memorandums of that day's business ; till Sir R— one time watched him, and found him praying upon his knees. After the eight days were past, and which he had spent in various delights and satisfaction, he begg'd of us to put a period to our kindnesses, and to let him go : upon which he left us one whole day, to take care of his affairs, and returned the next, to take his farewell of us. Now, my good lord, said he, will I with joy return to Poland ; and in my journey entertain myself with the pleasing thoughts of having met with you. I am old, and shall hardly see either of you in this world again : neither have I any children ; and were it not that I chuse to die with my wife in her native place, which she hardly will change now, I would settle in this country, notwithstanding my age. Upon this all of us took our farewell of him, as though he had been our father : Ah ! my good Lord, repeated he, with looks of fearfulness, you have richly rewarded me for the service which I have done you ; but I have not yet sufficiently shewn my gratitude to you for having saved my life, at the hazard of your own. You know that I have more

more riches than I and my wife have occasion for, and I have ten thousand dollars in the bank of Amsterdam; oblige me, I beseech you, by giving me leave to make a present of them to your daughter, and by your own acceptance of the note. We assured him that our circumstances were such as not to require any augmentation from his liberality; but he complained of our scorning his cordial offer, and obliged us to accept of the money; after which he went to our daughter, and adorned her with a very valuable necklace; he made also rich presents to the unfortunate woman whom we had taken into our house; and then hurried away at once, that his taking leave of us might not affect him too closely. That generous man! No doubt, many of these people would behave more unreservedly to us, were it not that **our** despising and imposing upon them rendered them more interested and less fair in their dealings with us; and did we by our conduct not often oblige them to hate our religion. Sir R— accompanied our Hebrew guest some miles out of the town, and could not cease to admire that man's most disinterested and great character. Amongst all the marks of friendship which we shewed him, none touched him more than that the Count had caused his picture to be drawn, and reposed it in his study.

After this joy, another happened to us within few weeks after, more important

and as unexpected as the former. Andreas, Carolina's brother, used to celebrate his birth-day every year. One morning very early he came and told us, that he should be obliged to take a journey, which would detain him some weeks from home; and because he was to set out to-morrow, he was willing to keep his birth day to-day, and was come on purpose to invite us to it; desiring us forthwith to get into a barge with him, and to spend the whole day at his house. We gave our consent to it: but because we were at tea, and busy about reading the letter which the Count had sent me from Siberia by the Jew, we desired Andreas to give us time to make an end of reading the same, that the Count then might satisfy us in several instances in which we wanted to be more circumstantially informed of; for Carolina and Sir R— were in our company. Ay! call'd Andreas out, you may do that when you are come to my house—take the letter with you, and do not disappoint me, else I set out directly, and will not entertain you at all. This plain compliment obliged us to follow him directly. When we were come to his house, we found every thing there set off in a more handsome manner than for an ordinary festivity; and we were surprized at his great preparations. I do not know what to think of my brother, said Carolina: may be his birth day will turn out a wedding day—To me he seems too merry, and

and yet too fly, than he should be. Thus we went on bantering him while he waited on us at tea ; and he smiled, as though he was pleased that we had found out his stratagem. Go but on with reading your letter through, began Andreas to us, I will in the mean time fetch my bride, or at least get my bottle-case in order. He went then into the adjoining room, whilst we were intent upon our letter. I asked about several little matters relating to the Governor's Lady, whose letter to her sister-in-law in Courland, had been returned to my husband, because she was dead : Sir R—, again, was pleased to hear the Governor's humour related ; whilst Carolina gave her greatest attention to what concerned Steeley. By this time Andreas came into the room again where we were, seemingly to attend to our discourse, and heard my husband say to Carolina, have I not yet described him plain enough ? or are you fallen in love with him ? You may be sure he was a handsome man, or the Cossac girl would not have been so kind to him : he had large black eyes, like you, and At this Andreas opened the door of the adjoining room ; and thinking it very sublime in him, called out with a loud voice, perhaps he looked like this gentleman ! and even at that instant Steeley stood before us. The Count trembled so that he could scarce get out of his chair ; and we beheld their embracing each other with a shower of joy

which fell for some time. Now! cried Steeley at last, now are we rewarded for all our sufferings ; and disengaged himself from the Count, while I hastened to meet him with open arms. Ah! Madam, began he, I... I... Yes, yes, 'tis you... and that was all his compliment: the Count came then rushing upon us, and we three embraced each other together. O! what a delight is there in true friendship! and with what ferment meet two hearts upon every happy occasion! We look upon each other with silence, yet the soul is never more eloquent than in such a state of silence: in a single turn of countenance, or friendly salutation, she is able to express at once a train of thoughts and sensations, without confounding them. Carolina, and Sir R— joined both in our exultations; and we four stood round Steeley, and all became a perfect knot of friends. Andreas, who perhaps thought that our complimenting each other took up too much time, drew Carolina and me to one side of the room, and with an air of reprimand said, pray good folks do not forget that you are women, and... Sit down all of you, else I shall have nothing to do but behold your embracing each other—do that when I am not here—This day I have consecrated to mirth, and not to dulness; and with this he engaged us to sit down. Well, my Lord, did he begin to my husband, did I not lay the scheme very cunningly?

cunningly? This was enough for us to understand that he wanted to be admired for his adroitness of thought: and indeed he deserved that we should spare some minutes of our joy to bestow them upon pleasing him. My husband had asked Steeley several questions; but Andreas interrupted him every time he was ready to make an answer. Can't you be satisfied that I have brought him amongst you? said he: to-night you may take him with you, and then talk to him till my next birth day: I will have the satisfaction to see you merry and jovial at my house. Indeed I believe there was none of us who did not wish to have done with our commanding and positive landlord; but common civility, besides being beholden to him for the happy meeting with my husband's singular friends, obliged us to conform to his humour; and Steeley himself seemed very indifferent to tell us at this time what had occurred to him since my husband's leaving him at Tobolskoy, except that he told him the Governor there was dead; and as to his Lady, continued he to the Count, she sends you a letter by me [That generous Lady! said the Count, interrupting him], which I have in my trunk, and will fetch immediately. Upon this both he and Andreas withdrew. We were pleased at Steeley's leaving us some moments to ourselves, for we wanted an opportunity to deliver ourselves to each other in praise of him. Do you think you

could love him, began the Count to me ; and does he please you ? But Carolina would not give me room to make an answer, and said, pray, my Lord, your Lady ought not to be the arbitrator, for she is prepossessed by your opinion—But please to ask me that question, and I will give a fair answer to it—I and the young woman in Siberia, we At this Steeley enter'd our room, with a Lady in his hand, whose countenance display'd gracefulness and joy : she was in an Amazon dress, and each lineament was an impression of goodness and love. O ! Heaven, cried the Count, whom do I behold ?—Is it possible, madam ! or do my eyes deceive me ?—This is too much happiness for one day ! Madam, began Steeley to me, (while astonishment rendered me still incapable to move from my place) here I present to you my fellow traveller, and crave your friendship for her. I embraced her, but did not know whom ; or rather would not know so soon, on purpose to prolong my enjoyment ; and she herself seemed to leave me with that view in an uncertainty ; till my husband called to me, and said, believe me, this is she to whom I am obliged for my liberty—'Tis she who has given me to you again. Yes, Madam, replied she ; for that service I expect a reward from you ; and I do not crave your friendship, that is too mean a term ; but I demand it. Are you really glad to see me ?—Yes, I perceive you

you are; you feel as much as I do, now I begin to know you. Thus, my Lord, we are now no more in Siberia: but what a great deal have I to tell you! Your friend whom you left behind you, has very highly disengaged me (casting at the same time her eyes upon Steeley with a most tender and love-provoking look) and let him tell it you himself. But, whisper'd she in my husband's ear, who is this Lady, and the Gentleman? meaning Carolina and Sir R—: the Count startled, and did not know what other answer to make on a sudden, but said, they are they are our friends, and yours also. At this I took Carolina by the hand, and presented her to Amalia; and my husband did the same with Sir R—. We suspected that Andreas had divulged the secret before our meeting; for taciturnity was not a thing which he numbered among his virtues: however, whether it was from a motive not to expose us, or perhaps because it was not come into his thoughts, he had mentioned nothing about our affair. I have hinted before, that Andreas had not patience to see the event of our welcoming each other, but withdrew from us: and now he returned again, and by his coming partly helped us out of the confusion we were in. This, began he to the stranger, this is my dear sister. The moment he had said this, Sir R— quitted the room abruptly, because he expected Andreas would mention him the

next : do not go, called he after him, I will say nothing ; the Count, no doubt, will relate it himself. Ah ! dear Count, what Secret is that ? asked Steeley ; may not I and this Lady know it ? Who is Sir R— ? He is one of my oldest friends ; and were I to tell you all Here my husband look'd at me, and stopped. He was my husband, said I to my female friend, before I knew that my Count was still living. Surely you do not hate me for that ?—Nay, Madam, I rather deserve your pity ; and my Count ; He loves you, added he, as dear as ever. Amalia seeing me blush, came with speed, and compassionately embraced me, thereby to shorten the few minutes of this melancholy interval of our satisfaction. Steeley actually seemed to make a pause in his respect for me, on hearing this, and looked now on the Count, and then on me ; at last he exclaimed to the Count, what then ! is she no more your wife ? She is my wife, answered the Count—do not make yourself uneasy :—I know you love me ; and nothing has wanted to make my happiness compleat, but this day. And upon this our enjoyment began a-fresh.

Our surly entertainer then desired us to sit down ; but every word of ours was a soothing, and instead of eating we looked on each other. Madam, said Steely at last to me, your eyes seem to speak to me at every glance. Perhaps you envy me for my lovely fellow

fellow traveler: or would you know what has moved her to come to Holland?—She is come to fetch her Jewels again which the Count had of her in Siberia; and because we were informed in Moscow that we should find him here, and this has proved true, she intends to stay with you till they are restored to her. Yes, said I, we are indebted for them—But how comes it that you have the interest of the Lady so much at heart? Does the law of your being her fellow traveller require it? You hear it plain, Madam, interrupted she, he wants the secret of my voyage to be discover'd; I therefore will tell you, that I love him, and that out of love for him I have accompanied him hither: he both merits and possesses my heart, and my joining hands with him I have deferred till I should do it in your presence. At this Steeley got from his seat, and embraced her. Then you are my bride, exultingly he said. Yes, replied she; and I would plough another sea, rather than lose you. And to you, noble Count, to you I owe my happiness, since without you I never should have seen my spouse. In your first conversation with me you described him so advantageously, that he had my favour before I had seen him: providence has recompensed my loss in him; and I will reward his sufferings with my love—I will stay with you. And to you, Madam, I leave the regulation of our marriage, and to appoint a day for its
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consummation which soever you shall chuse; for I will receive my future husband from your hands: and I, said the Count, my spouse from yours; for in consideration that I have commenced a second marriage with her, I will also go a second time through the nuptial ceremonies; and this shall be on the day of your union. Amalia (this was the name of Steeley's bride) desired then to have a silver basin and a bottle-case full of wine brought out of her chamber: do you know this glass again, my Lord? said she to my husband: it is the same out of which I drank in Siberia to the health of your Lady; and now it shall serve again for that purpose, here in Holland: O how well will this taste to me! Then she drank, and desired me to pledge her. I looked upon the glass and the wine, and at the same time saw my husband in Siberia, in his very unfortunate condition pitied and assisted by a most generous spirit; and looking upon Amalia, I drank, but could not hinder some of my tears from falling into the glass; and never did wine taste so deliciously to me as this. The great contentment and satisfaction which each of us enjoy'd had such an effect as put a pause to our discourses, till Andreas broke our silence, by his interrogatories: but, Madam, began he smiling to Amalia, how did the Count look when as a prisoner he stood before you? Did he look like a man of distinction,

tinction, or not? or did he look dispirited? His looks, replied she, were moderated according to my discourse to him: when I pitied him most, then in token of his thanks for my tenderness he would look upon me with great humbleness; and the moment he perceived that I was indifferent about taking notice of his misery, he reproached my coldness with such an air of pride as would easily tell me that he did not suffer for guilt, and that even his unfortunate circumstances could not derogate from his greatness of mind. But how was he dressed? proceeded Andreas: meaner than I wished him to be, answered Amalia; a German under coat worn thread-bare, a black fur gown, and a pair of short-boots, were all the cloaths he had: his short curl'd hair, however, made him look bold and undaunted, though some tears of concern discovered themselves in his eyes, from whence he could not banish them: never was he more eloquent, nor greater in my eyes than when he talked of his Lady; and from that moment I made a vow within myself to procure his liberty. But your late husband and the Count, I believe, were not always the best friends together, returned Andreas. For what he has done amiss I hope the Count will excuse him: Ah! forgive him the faults of his nation's rusticity, which I have experienced more than you, my Lord, notwithstanding his inclinations for me. Our marriage

riage was agreed on by the Court, and it might have proved of worse consequence to me, had I not submitted to their proposals. In the mean time I honour his memory in as great a measure as I have with patience submitted to my fate by his side, whilst perhaps my conduct might have entitled me to a greater share of satisfaction.

To our great joy, Andreas was called from us, about his own particular business, and his absence made us now more free to each other. Steeley was going to relate to the Count all what had happened since his departure from Tobolskoy, but his sensations were so great that he could not go on, but stopped almost every moment, and we were contented with a summary of the principal matters which were delivered to us in a succinct sense, and in the following manner :

Some days after the Count's departure from Tobolskoy, (began Amalia at our request) my husband died of the gout in his stomach ; of which I forthwith gave the Court notice, desiring withal to give me leave to return to Moscow. In the mean time I continued in power till the arrival of a new Governor, which gave me an opportunity to repeal several regulations my husband had made concerning prisoners, but which I thought to be attended with too much hardship. And now, my Lord, none was in the way to hinder me from accommodating
your

your friend whom you left behind; and therefore I ordered the Jew to supply him with every thing he should want; giving at the same time some hints to him whereby he might suppose that Steeley was my distant relation. At that time indeed, my kindness proceeded from a motive of compassion only; for I had not seen him more than once, and this in melancholy circumstances, when by my husband he was recalled to Tobolskoy. I was pleased to hear his thanks which he sent me by the Jew, for my care of him; and what I could not well effect by command, I brought about by money, which I gave the Jew to disperse among the under-keepers of the prisoners. Accordingly he was brought to a better prison, where he had also a larger allowance; and I had already thought of several means to perpetuate his circumstances after my return to Moscow. About four weeks after the decease of my husband, an order arrived from court, that Steeley should be set at liberty, and be provided with a pass, for his return from Siberia, whenever he should find an opportunity to depart from thence; at his own expence however. In the morning I sent for the Jew, and ordered him to bring Steeley to me with all expedition, telling him at the same time that I would dispatch a guard after the prisoner while he was acquainting him with my order. Steeley came, and I bid him and the Jew come in-

to the room where I was. At his entrance he delivered himself in a very thankful and engaging manner on the subject of my care for him, and remained standing near the door. I enquired of him, whether he had heard of the Count; and whether he was contented with his circumstances? To the former of which he answered with a deep sighing no, and to the latter with a very faint yes. After this I desired him to give me a brief account of his fate, which he did; but the farther he went in his narration, the more attention and respect his words attracted from me. I thought he looked much handsomer than he had two years before; and I am not sure whether I persuaded myself, or whether it was true, that the rough fur gown became him exceeding well. I found by his manner of speaking, that he had a noble heart; and though I should have doubted of this, it would perhaps have been for no other reason than that I might myself have an opportunity to consult my doubts. The Count, thought I to myself, was in the right to love him so dearly, and to interest himself in his favour; he merits both esteem and compassion, and it is thy duty to serve such an honest, but unfortunate man. I observed whilst he continued speaking, something touched my heart; yet was I not forward to examine it, and at the same time cautious not to distrust it: I called my motives, when by myself, the effect of hearing

hearing him relate his misfortunes; and filled with thoughtfulness, sat down to hear him a long time, without interrupting him once. When he came to speak of the barbarity which he and Sidney had met with in Moscow, it moved me much more than when the Count told it to me, and it was not in my power to refrain my tears, though I did not chuse he should perceive my tenderness; and therefore abruptly asked him, how old his father was, and how long it was since he had seen him, merely that I might apply the words, poor man! together with some tears, to his father's case, since otherwise my heart would have obliged me to shew my pity for him by those expressions: besides the former, I started several other questions, which related to his family, and to his younger years. At last he began to speak of the melancholy accident that happened to him and his bride in England; and which touched me so strongly, that I got off my chair on a sudden, and went close to him; the last of which actions perhaps I had been secretly wishing to have an opportunity to do: he himself grew dispirited as he was giving this account, and closed it with an, O God! which went through my very soul, and frightened me at the same time; for he stood motionless, with his head down, and his eyes shut, and I verily thought that I must have opened them for him. However, he saved me the trouble, and on a sudden

a sudden looked at me with a countenance of reproach ; which made me suppose that he was going to blame me for something which he had taken amiss of me. Sir, said I to him, I will return immediately, and resume our discourse, and then went into the next room, to fetch his discharge, for which I ransacked all my drawers, though it lay on my tea-table. I was ashamed at my uneasiness, but thought that it proceeded from the melancholy account which he had given me, and that the joy which would ensue upon my acquainting Steeley with his deliverance, would soon bring my fluttering spirits to rights. I examined the looking-glass before I went back into the room where Steeley waited for me, and I observed that every look of mine betrayed the disquietude of my heart ; yet with all my flutter I had the patience to alter something of my head-dress, to give an advantage to my appearance ; and when I was on the point of surprizing Steeley with the news of his liberty, I still gave myself time to think of the resemblance of his unfortunate bride, and, as it were, held her picture against the looking-glass, to compare it with mine. At last I studied how to address him upon this occasion, and then opened the door, and hurried to Steeley. But when I attempted to speak to him, I perceived that I gasped for breath ; and that I could not recollect the words in which I had proposed to deliver myself ; and therefore

fore asked the Jew several insignificant questions, on purpose by that means to recover my spirits. I will be no longer cruel to you, exclaimed I at last, in keeping you ignorant of such news as perhaps you have wished to hear long before. Do you understand the Russ language? Yes—yes, cried he, in a tone of anxiety, and trembling, which made me shiver in like manner. I then sat down, and desired him to follow my example, but he excused himself; and I thought myself obliged to offer him a chair, to prevent the trouble of further ceremonies. Being now both seated, I read the order to him; and at last said, from this time forward, Sir, you are free, and at your own disposal; and I am rejoiced that I am allotted to be the person who am to acquaint you with it: henceforth do not regard me as your commander, but as your good friend. At this he leaped off his chair, and with inexpressible joy kissed my hand; which marks of gratitude I suffered him to reiterate several times, as though I were afraid to offend him if I should have drawn back my hand. For joy he stammered out some words which indeed I could not well understand; yet even this language pleased me. I immediately sent a messenger to the Inspector over the prisoners, to let him know that Steeley was no more under his custody; and I dismissed the watch which had guarded him. I should be

be glad, said I, you should make your residence in my house till some opportunity offers to return safely to Moscow ; but my present condition, it seems, will not permit it : however, the Jew will take care to accommodate you with suitable lodgings ; and for whatever else you have occasion, you need not concern yourself, during the time that I myself shall stay in this country. He then took his leave of me ; but I observed in his eyes, that he had much more to say than what he had related ; and therefore was vexed at the Jew's presence ; but ordered him to come again after dinner : And by that time our first conference was over. I went then to the window to observe the graceful steps of Steeley ; but at the same moment asked myself why I should do so ? and yet did it. Dinner being now ready, I sat down, and was sorry that I had not invited Steeley to dine with me, and therefore had not much satisfaction by myself. In the mean time I thought the Jew's return too long ; and I might have known without much scrutinizing my heart, that I more than pitied Steeley ; but I thought it proper to make the case dubious. Perhaps, said I to myself, the Jew will procure Steeley an opportunity to part from hence in a few days with the Caravan ; which in my thoughts I forbid him, and wished he would return in my company. While I was thus thinking,

thinking, the Jew came again, and assured me that he had accommodated his guest in the best manner, and had brought him to the house which he had bought of the late Governor two years ago. This I was surprised at when he told it to me, as though it were something ominous; yet was I very well contented with his management. I then called my old German servant, who had followed me out of Courland to Moscow, and from thence to Siberia, and ordered him to go with the Jew to see what the gentleman, who was set at liberty this day, should want, either of furniture in his lodgings, or of other requisites, since it was the command of the Court to treat him as a person of quality, till he should leave Siberia. My Servant returned, and told me, that the gentleman was provided with all the most necessary things, except some China, and a Mattress to lie upon. I gave him myself what he asked for, and indeed the best of every sort, and was concerned that he requested no more: however, I bid him carefully tell the pieces, that none might be lost, though my heart gave me no intimation of the cause of this my carefulnes: besides what I had set out for Steeley, I ordered my servant to take a case full of wine with him; and when you are coming from the gentleman, continued I to him, you may ask him in your own name, whether he wants any thing else: but he did not return till evening.

I asked

I asked him why he had stay'd so long?
‘ Ah ! replied he in his innocent manner,
‘ it is a hard matter to get from this gentle-
‘ man : he is a dear gentleman ; every
‘ thing he says goes to one's heart : O ! had
‘ you but heard him how he praises Heaven
‘ for having delivered him from his con-
‘ finement ! I believe he is a very good man ;
‘ and I wonder how God has suffered him
‘ to come to Siberia. When I was about to
‘ take my leave of him, I would have helped
‘ him in undressing himself : ah, my good
‘ Albert, said he, give yourself no trouble,
‘ I have learned in Siberia to be my own
‘ servant ; which affected me very much.
‘ He is also a man of a very good aspect—
‘ who knows of what high rank he may be,
‘ notwithstanding he has suffered so much
‘ in this confounded country : if you will
‘ give me leave, I will every day wait upon
‘ him, some hours, that he may enjoy some
‘ returns of comfort. He bid me remember
‘ his most humble thanks to you for the fa-
‘ vours you shewed him, and begs you
‘ would lend him a book : I believe it stands
‘ upon this piece of paper ;’ which scrap
was a billet written in French, and con-
tained the following expressions :

‘ **M**Y happiness seems to me only a
‘ dream, and you accumulate so
‘ many favours upon me that I am intirely
‘ at a loss how to shew my obligation for
‘ them :

‘ them : in my thoughts I already tell it to the Count, to my friends, and to all my countrymen, that I have met with the most generous heart in Siberia. Ah ! Madam, in what do I deserve the care which you have for me ; and by what can I deserve your concern during the rest of my unhappy life ?—By nothing but my respects.’

This short letter pleased me very much ; and I spent the best part of the night with commenting upon it ; but especially upon the words, ‘ By what can I deserve your concern during the rest of my unhappy life ? By nothing but my respects :’ to which I gave such an interpretation as best suited the inclination by which I was baffled. I was glad when I awaked, that day appeared ; and as I was dressing, I resolved within myself that Steeley should dine with me that day : but I could not find my servant, and judged that he might perhaps be with his new master ; and indeed I found that I had judged right. Soon after he came in ; when I reprimanded him for minding his new master more than my business ; and dispatched him with two French books back again to Steeley, bidding Albert at the same time to invite him to dinner with me. In the mean time I ordered my cook to dress a few dishes the German way ; and about noon I sent my best sledge to fetch

fetch Steeley. I was not dressed very rich, on purpose not to disguise my natural looks, though I had been cunning enough to chuse such a dress as became me extraordinary well. What I proposed by having Steeley to dinner with me was to sift my heart thoroughly, and to know whether my feelings had any thing else but friendship for their dangerous project. At last my guest arrived, whose looks seemed more serene than they had been the day before, and, as I thought, more amiable: he was better dressed than yesterday, though after the Russian manner; and all gratitude and reverence was his language: but I pretended that my care for him was in obedience to the order of the Court; and we two tete-a-tete sat down to table. We spent rather more than three hours over our dinner; and it seemed that they were as short to him as they were with me. He could not yet bring himself to complimenting a Lady, nor behave himself with address at any entertainment; which gave me an opportunity almost every moment to surprize him with some genteel turn or other; and I was even glad to surpass him in politeness, because I observed that he excelled me in genius. I prevailed on him to rehearse the occurrences of his life once more to me; which he did, and they affected me as much as though I never had heard them before. We changed the discourse, and began to talk of the Count;

Count; and he expressed such a strong and ardent desire to see him again, as made me almost jealous. In short, after we had passed some few hours together, my guest pleased me so well, that I was obliged to force myself from shewing my real value for him. During the short interval that the waiter was gone, I wished to have him utter words of more personal regard to me, only that I might know whether I pleased him; but he was not wanting in expressions of reverence; and his eyes confirmed those expressions. In regard to the rules of civility, which to me were prodigiously impertinent, after we had got up from table, he took his leave of me; and I had not the heart to intreat his longer stay, because I was afraid I should betray myself; and therefore ordered my servant to see him safe home again: and now I well knew what kindness I had for him. I was offended with him for leaving me so soon: I grew more uneasy than I was before; and my uneasiness increased upon me the more I endeavoured to extirpate it. I fancied to myself that he did not like me, and accused myself for wanting charms sufficient to draw from him more than reverence, and this imagination gave me a fit of sullenness; and I revenged myself by railing against my own frame. I would not however leave all my hopes to chance, nor suppress my love for him; but made a

resolution to invite him again to me in three days time: but oh what long days did they appear to me! The servant in the mean time told me, that his master seemed very thoughtful in his solitary hours. How glad was I to hear this! and I was weak enough to ask him, whether his master did not sometimes speak of me? Very often, replied Albert; he praises you above the skies; and every time I come he inquires after your health, besides that he wants to be informed of every trifle relating to you.

After three days, he came to me again, in the former manner; and now I was busy in observing his looks. The Jew had furnished him with a suit of cloaths after the German fashion, which made him look as young again as he did in the Russian dress: yes—yes, I thought to myself, you are handsome—you are lovely—but what am I the better for it? I thought I had now nothing in my face that could discover the inward uneasiness of my mind: but I found that I was mistaken; for when we were at table he took great notice of me, and at last asked me, why I looked less serene now than I had done when he was last in my company? At which I was surprized, and vexed at my traitorous countenance: however, I told him that it proceeded from not having yet received permission from the Court

Court to leave this country and return to Moscow : but, proceeded I, what is the matter with you, Sir ? Your countenance does not seem any longer to reflect that joy which the sense of your liberty formerly gave it. It is perhaps the desire to see your native country again that makes you uneasy ? Yes, Madam, said he, with a dejected look : but oh ! how agreeable was this yes to me ! for the tone in which he delivered it carried such an indifference with it as rather turned it into a no. Perhaps you have some fair one, continued I, in your country, who is in expectation of you ; if so, why do you deprive both you and myself of the satisfaction we should have in talking of her ? I assure you, that in such a case I would assist you with half my riches to serve you for your journey ; and to witness the friendship I have for you : to which he answered with a modest look ; but not one word spoke he. And now I was resolved to know at once either my good or bad fortune. You are silent to my question, Sir, which tells me that you have some object of your love in London : no, Madam, exclaimed he ; Heaven knows that since the death of my dear Celia I have not been in love : how could I hide any thing from you ?—How do you think I could do this ?—I beseech you, Madam, lessen your favours to me ; for I do not merit them, and that is the true cause of my uneasiness. This expression restored

my peace ; and from my sudden alteration he might easily have guessed the state of my heart ; but my joy had a contrary effect with respect to him ; for the more gaiety I assumed, the more dull and pensive did he appear, and hardly made a reply to all my prattle, which I prolonged the rather, that I might study what effect it had upon his eyes and heart. He loves me, I said at last to my flattering heart ; but gratitude and reverence injoin him to silence : he is modest, which is what I esteem in him ; and he wishes to force me to the fault of declaring that I am in love ; which is what he deserves : in the mean time I encreased the kindness of my expressions to him, yet so as not to exceed the bounds of friendship. My husband, before his decease, had built a stately house ; to which I invited this gentleman after dinner ; and therefore ordered all the apartments in the gallery to be aired, because I had a mind to shew them to him ; merely to prolong his stay with me, when we came into the faloon, where the models of fortifications and landscapes were hung up in rich frames, I asked him, whether he did not find some amongst them which were of his drawing ? But I observed that he gave not so much attention to the designs, as he did to me ; for which mark of esteem I was not long without repaying him. I will shew you the pieces of your performance, said I ; for my husband has told me, that all those that

that were marked with an S, were done by your hand—I believe he has been very troublesome to you in the execution of them. Ah! Madam, said he, you are able to reward me for all my labour at once: but, no I did not actually know what he meant by it; and therefore pressed him to tell me. Will you pardon me, Madam, if I explain myself to you? for it is attended with great audaciousness. Yes, Sir, I will. Upon this he opened the door of the adjoining apartment which we had viewed just before, and pointed at my portrait: that present, Madam, I should wish to be made to me when I leave Siberia. This request was the most pleasing to me of all which ever he had made; but I pretended not to understand him, on purpose that he might repeat it: and now he had the courage to take me by the hand, and pressing it, to tell me, I knew not what obliging things. Upon this I retired with him directly to the dining room, that I might not improve the assault, as it were, which he had made upon my heart: but he did not perceive his victory, and rather thought he had given me offence. From this time almost a whole week, he behaved to me like a friend, who by a submissive carriage thought to please me; or like a guest, who by a thankful modesty would reward me for civilities which I shew'd him every noon. I really could not account for the secret state of our hearts;

for we were at liberty to be together every day: we had nobody to fear but ourselves: every thing was under my command; and my authority was too great to apprehend being blamed by any one whom I admitted to my presence; yet notwithstanding all this, instead of becoming more familiar together by our daily conversation, it seemed that we turned strangers to each other: For he was cautious of shocking my delicacy in any thing; and I now took more care than before, not to give him occasion for it: neither of us discerned, that the precaution which we used in speaking to, and entertaining each other, was nothing else but ardent love; or, to speak in other words, we felt the power of love to such a degree, as obliged us to prescribe severe laws to ourselves. I imitated him; and in good manners he imitated me: but what could all this forced carriage mean, except our care to please each other; and our uncertainty how to declare it to one another without giving offence to either? Every moment did I expect a warm explanation from him, yet hinder'd him from it by my behaviour, and flattered my uneasiness with fresh hopes. After a conversation of ten or twelve days, we had talked so much to each other that we were exhausted, and were the more sparing in words, because we denied our hearts the liberty of speaking. After dinner we commonly play'd at draughts; a game, indeed,

deed, which is rather a punishment than diversion for people in love; and which would have been very tedious to us, had it not intitled us to the satisfaction of beholding each other more closely than at an ordinary meeting. I often kept my hand upon my man a long while, as if I were dubious how to dispose of him, when at the same time I only rested my hand for my lover to look at it. Our games were commonly soon over: for though I understood the play much better than he; yet one glance of his honest and charming eyes, or a blush, or a sigh, which I sometimes forced from him, was enough to make me move wrong, on purpose not to beat him disgracefully. This diversion we exercised sometimes several hours together, without speaking ten words to each other; and we became so eager at it, that we quitted the table sooner than ordinary to sit down at draughts. Our conversation had now lasted about a month, in all which time we had missed seeing one another no more than five days: and though we enjoyed the greatest satisfaction in being together, yet when we met again after that interval of five days absence, we were no more tender of each other than we had been before; and we should certainly have maintained this character longer, had not a certain affair interrupted our hearts in their most innocent enjoyment; and that in the

following instance; *viz.* the Jew came unexpectedly to us, when we were at dinner, and told Steeley, that to-morrow a convoy would go off for the court, and that for so much money he might go safely with them to Moscow: at which account I was so surprised that I was not able to speak; neither was Steeley in a better condition. At last, when? replied he to the Jew, when am I to go? Go to my lodgings before me, proceeded Steeley, I will follow you presently: upon this the Jew went away; and now a tragical scene opened. Ah! Madam, said Steeley, resuming his discourse, and already melting into tears; ah! Madam, am I already to go? Am I to go to-morrow? And what is it that makes your going so heavy? asked I. He was staggered at this question, and seemingly out of humour. Can you ask me what makes my going heavy to me? —Why 'tis you! Having said this, he turned at once silent, and endeavoured to hide his deep concern. And now I perceived, with the utmost satisfaction, that he loved me; but said nothing; or, rather, I was in such an extasy of joy, I could not speak. He then made himself ready to go; but in my perplexity I took hold of him by the hand, and stopped him. Where are you going, Sir? asked I, in a great flutter. I am going to punish myself for the audaciousness which I have just now committed—I am going to take

take my farewell of you, and . . . but suppose I should intreat you not to go yet; would you not stay with me? Would you not postpone seeing your country and friends a little longer? Yes, Madam, replied he hastily, I would do every thing—forget my country for ever—for ever forget my friends and country for your sake! Only tell me but whether you . . . Whether you—hate me? I love you said I, in return; there is no longer time to affect disguise; and if you love me, then stay here, and let us leave dismal Siberia together. Now for the first time he ventured to embrace me: and, O Heaven! with what inexpressible satisfaction was it as well offered as received, after so long a suppression of demonstrating our love for each other! How many thousand times did he tell me that he loved me; and how few times less did I tell it him on my part? Ay what number of kisses, and by how many sighings did we repeat this our confession to each other! And now our heart alone spoke without confining itself to set expressions of compliment. He asked me, whether I had not observed that he loved me; and I proposed the same question to him: we described to each other the condition of our hearts at that time; and from this very hour our conversation turned upon nothing else but love and chearfulness. In the mean time the convoy went off, but my

lover was infinitely pleased with staying behind : and having an opportunity for it, I sent a petition to the Court, to permit me soon to leave Siberia, though my love had now converted that frightful desert into a rich and beautiful habitation.

Hitherto we had been in company together sometimes half days, and sometimes only a few hours ; but now whole days did we think too short for our conversation : for though he was assured of my love, yet had he first endeavoured to merit it by his courteous deportment to me, which intitled him to it ; and I who had been married eight years, without knowing the elegances of love, did now learn its value by the most innocent blandishments in which the greatest part of our language consisted. I promised him, that if he did not chuse to follow me to Courland, I would go with him to his own country ; and in case I should be denied in Moscow to my native climate, that then I would go off with him privately : till such time, added I, I am your bride elect, and will be your wife as soon as we shall be arrived at a safe place.

Thus I left Tobolskoy about the middle of the month of June, attended by a strong detachment for my safe-guard. My husband had left me upwards of an hundred thousand rubles, in money, and in Jewels : one half of this my treasure we took care to secure

secure in the waggon which was appointed for Steeley and me ; and the other moiety we packed up in the other waggon, where our Albert and some discharged prisoners were. But before we set out, Steeley caused all the prisoners in and about Tobolskoy to be cloathed ; and besides treating them with extraordinary festivity three days, gave to each of them some rubles in money, though the number of prisoners was above fifty.

After a tedious and troublesome journey of five weeks, and after travelling Day and night (by reason that the nights in the summer months were almost as clear as the days), we arrived safe in Moscow. I did not chuse to shew myself there openly at Court, and therefore endeavoured to find an opportunity to wait in private upon the Czarina, whose maid of honour I had been. The noble-spirited Catharina received me in a very kind manner, at a summer palace called Taninska, and obliged me to stay a whole week with her : but all the courtesy and politeness with which she entertained me, was only loading me with insupportable burdens, without my lover's participating of them. She heard me frequently wish to have the good-luck to return to Courland, and she procured that favour for me effectually, because she had the power of commanding it. Having obtained this wished-for liberty to leave Moscow, I hastened back to the City, and made

made inquiry after my dear fellow-traveller, who was got into the house of an English merchant: but my Albert brought me the melancholy news, that he was sick, and not in a condition to come to me. The moment he had told me this, I took coach, and went to him; but I found that his malady proceeded from nothing else but his great concern for me. Ah! cried he out, when he saw me, have I not lost you!—Are you still my faithful friend? My doubted fidelity I demonstrated to him in reality, by staying with him all that day. He shew'd me several letters which had been sent to him from London, addressed to the English Agent in Moscow, and one in particular which the Count had left for him in the same hands. In the mean time I was actually resolv'd to direct my course to Courland, had not the weakness of my lover altered my proposal. At last he received letters from the Count: ah! said he to me, he has found his Lady again, and lives with her in Holland—shall we go thither? How happy should we be with him! This was enough to change my resolution of going to my own country.

And now we had concluded to go to Holland, and we took shipping accordingly, towards the end of August, when love made even the sea agreeable to me. We have met with no disasters in our voyage, except that we

we have been a little sea-sick, especially in stormy winds, which however have done no other harm to us than having kept us about a fortnight longer at sea than if we had had a continued gale of good wind. We have now been four days off the sea, and came yesterday here, by land.

This was the history of the amours of Amalia and of Steeley.

The first two days passed away with narratives, and the third was fixed for the wedding, when I and Carolina dressed the bride; and we really fell in love with her, so engaging did she look; yet notwithstanding all her charms, she did not eclipse the gracefulness of the bridegroom who had the presence as well as qualifications of an accomplished gentleman. After Amalia was dressed, we conducted her to Steeley's apartment. Now, said she, there is still time to chuse another, if you have a mind, and embraced him. Soon after Sir R— and his friend the Count came, and brought a Clergyman of the French congregation with them, who was to marry Amalia and Steeley: Sir R— had informed the Divine of the circumstances which concerned both Bride and Bridegroom; and we all sat down, not knowing the Minister wanted to make an oration: but he did, and that with such eloquence, and such energy, as astonished

nished all of us, and as surely to none of us could any other subject have given equal delight. He touched upon the marvellous ways of predestination in the destiny of mankind. To conceive what impression this speech made on our hearts, it is requisite to represent to one self the Count and Steeley under all their calamities ; then the Bride, myself, and in short, all of us together : our souls expanded themselves by these sublime representations, to survey the compass of the divine decree in respect to our destiny ; and our sense of admiration and gratitude was carried along with the rapid current of our Minister's oratory. People who never have experienced what it is to be unfortunate ; and who are too selfish to take the sufferings of others into their consideration, it will seem an hypocritical paradox, to say, that this discourse gave infinite satisfaction to us : they will not persuade themselves, that such serious reflections can suit a day of joy and love : but I hope that people who dissent from me, will not compel me to prove my assertion, since that cannot be done without having experienced it.

Thus passed the forenoon : Steeley and Amalia were married ; and our own union reiterated. The Clergyman having performed his function, we invited him to partake of our entertainment ; and not only invited, but intreated him to stay with us, because

cause we all wished that he would : but he excused himself, and told us, that he proposed to spend the afternoon with a young man, who out of melancholy would have destroyed himself, had he not timely been prevented from committing the heinous crime of self-murder. He asked us whether we would have the kindness to contribute something towards supporting him in his wretched circumstances, and help him to some medicines, lest the malady of his mind should become more stubborn, by corrupting the Stamina of his vital parts. And because we observed that he took no notice of the particular circumstances of the young man, and because we imagined that he did it on purpose not to expose him before the whole company, we would not be inquisitive, and only asked him where the unfortunate person was to be met with : he then told us of an old Shepherdess, who, as he had been informed, had out of compassion taken him into her cottage, but a few days ago, where he yesterday had wounded himself with a knife, yet not so as to endanger his life. We told the Clergyman, that in this case he should not intreat us, but rather prescribe what would be most proper for us to do for the patient, because we never wanted intreating to relieve a miserable object, by bestowing part of our substance upon him. Accordingly, as soon as the Minister

nister was gone, we sent him bedding and other necessaries: I sent for my Doctor; and ordered the unfortunate young woman, concerning whom I have spoken above, (and who was my house-keeper), to shew him the patient, that she might report to us what the Doctor should order for him to eat and to drink, that every thing might be prepared and administred according to his pre-scription.

After this we sat down to table, to regale ourselves suitably to such occasion, yet without superfluities; for we should not have thought ourselves worthy of such a day, had we not known how to make a right use of it. Every thing was well taken from each other, and trifling matters, such as many would not have taken notice of, either for want of sincerity, or the skill how to make use of them, served us in our company as entertaining subjects; and the manner in which they were treated, afforded such a satisfaction to every one of us as seldom is observed in those who think to meet with it in pompous and extraordinary contrivances for mirth. Jesting quarrels which Amalia and Steeley began about the Cossac girl, little reproaches by which we surprized one another, gave a fresh eddy to the tide of con-versation, and every innocent jest gave a new turn to pleasure.

My housekeeper whom we had dispatched to the patient came back with looks of great surprize,

surprise, and told us, that she had found her false lover again ; and that he was the miserable object himself for whom we had taken so much care : he, continued she, has begged my pardon, and shed a flood of tears ; and I have forgiven him all, and am become his intercessor : his conscience has punished him more than enough. He told me, that after he had forsaken me in such a base manner, he went to harlem, and there gave himself over to all manner of excesses, that he might not leave room for the thoughts of his wickedness to me. He further told me, by this dissolute life he had banished serious reflections for some months ; but that afterwards he had not been able to withstand the terrors of having perhaps by his perfidy occasioned the death both of me, and of the fruit of our mutual love ; and that they had forced him to return to the place where he forsook me : and because he had not had the heart to make strict inquiry after me, nor known where to apply to for information, an old Shepherdess had taken notice of him, and conveyed him to her cottage, after he had spent two days in the same meadow where he left me to myself, and had been in a state of great despair : here, continued he to me, had I determined to put an end to my misery, and at the same time to punish my own perfidy by using violence to myself, especially as I was reduced to the lowest degree of poverty. It now depends upon you, said

said my house-keeper, addressing herself in particular to me, whether by your benevolence you will grant him his life, and me, again. I love him, as though he never had offended me; but (here she looked at me) to leave you, that I cannot . . . in truth, she deserved that we should shew ourselves kind to her, and satisfied at her good fortune; agreeable to which we ordered her lover to be brought to an house next to us; and we went to see him that very night. His wounds were not dangerous; and the joy of having found his deserted mistress again, had revived him so much, that he was able to talk to us, and to deprecate his error. He was going to give us a full detail of the whole transaction, but we were contented with his remorse, and excused him from the shame of impeaching himself. We observed in his confused and meagre face still some traces of handsomness, and of a tender heart. He was hardly four-and-twenty years old; and was on account of his youth the more deserving of pity and forgiveness.

The rest of the evening we spent in musick, which we made among ourselves. I play'd the instrument, and sung to it myself; and sometimes Amalia and Carolina. My little daughter who was almost six years old, had the courage to ask Steeley to dance with her; and she had almost tempted every one of us to take part in the same pleasure. At last we conducted our new-married couple to

to their bed chamber, and committed them to the consummation of their love.

While the next morning I was still consulting with the Count how to entertain our new-married couple that day, the servant came in and told my husband, that an English gentleman wanted to speak with him ; upon which he went to receive him ; and as soon as he opened the door, we perceived by his looks that he was Steeley's father. His hair was of a silver-grey colour ; but his lively eyes, his red face, and his airy step did not answer to the marks of age in his features. I seek, said he, in French, from you for my son, or if I should not have the happiness to see him again in this world, I would at least enquire of you whether you can inform me where he is. According to the account which I have from Moscow, I am very well assured that he was to be released from his misery in Siberia ; and out of a desire to give my son the marks of my paternal affection, I have once more ventured upon the sea, though in the seventy-ninth year of my age. Your voyage, Sir, replied my husband, you will not repent of. I have letters from your son, dated from Moscow, and I have the satisfaction to tell you that it will not be long before you will see him here : how long do you think you could tarry here ? A whole twelve-month, said Mr. Steeley, and longer, if I can but see my son again in that time. My husband then

then moderated his indulgent curiosity, by giving him an account of several particular circumstances; and I stepped to our tender pair, to see whether they were dressed; but they were still in their morning gowns, and I sent privately to the Count to let him know that they were risen. My husband, said I to them, (after some jocular questions) will come presently to invite you to a party of pleasure by water. At this he opened the door, and entered the bed-chamber with the old gentleman. At that moment Steeley forced himself from the arms of his new wife, and flew to his father, whom he embraced. The old gentleman look'd upon him some minutes without speaking a single word: at last, yes, exclaimed he, thou art my son—thou art my dear son! God be praised—now shall I die with pleasure! Give me a chair, my son, my feet begin to be weary; and Amalia having accordingly brought him one, we ranged ourselves all before him. His first question was about Amalia, who she was. Ever since yesterday, said she, I am the wife of your son—are you pleased with his choice? Mr. Steeley took her then most tenderly by the hand, and said, is it true that you are my daughter? then give me a kiss, and tell me of what country you are. After which he began to speak to her in a very polite manner, heightened almost to a degree of flattery and polite compliment; besides which he asked her.

her several questions, which in so far pleased us, as they were so many demonstrations of his plain and honest character, though they were none of the most important. He was displeased when he heard that we had not danced at the wedding, not danced? repeated he with some emotion: what a melancholy wedding must this have been!— This is wrong: what our forefathers have thought good and meet, ought not to be abolished—It is but just to be merry at one's wedding-day: when we come to London, I will order every thing in the same manner as it was at my wedding, which was fifty years since, yet I remember every circumstance thereof as perfect as if it had been but yesterday. It is true, said he to Amalia, you look much handsomer than my late wife did at her wedding, but she was much better dressed. Then he described his wife in her full dress, with the joyful remembrance of an ancient man, who is pleased with every thing that was in fashion in his younger years. Amalia promised to follow this dress, at least in what belonged to the head and the neck; which she actually did; and having put on a close pair of stays, wide sleeves tied with ribbons in two or three places, and locks of hair hanging down her shoulders, she pleased him mightily. He desired his son to give him a detail of his adventures; and as often as Steeley touched upon some unfortunate occurrence, the old gentleman could

could not refrain from shedding of abundance of tears; but in the midst of his shew of concern would make remarks upon some particular passages which moved his paternal tenderness more deeply. For instance; when Steeley began to deliver himself about his past sufferings, his father blamed him not a little, though without heat or passion, for having left the Ambassador, and gone into service. Soon after this the old gentleman embraced his son, for having behaved in so honest and generous a manner to the Count when he fell sick by the way to Moscow; this is an action worthy of my son! exclaimed he: God knows it that I would have done the same, had I been in my son's place: this is friendship indeed, when one helps one's friend in necessity. When Steeley came to speak of the affair which passed between the Pope and him, his father did not reproach him for it, but said, thy love to truth, indeed, has been sadly rewarded, and I wish it had not happened; yet I count it always better to tell one's mind with freedom and boldness, than to speak with meanness and fearfulness. I find your quarrel had religion for its foundation; and because thou hast suffered on that account, I look upon thee as a martyr, and I thank God for the courage he has given thee to undergo that barbarous treatment. At Steeley's enumerating the many kindnesses which the Count had shewn him in Siberia, the old gentleman assumed

assumad a majestick look: this is generosity indeed, said he: for one friend to do more to another, is impossible: ah! noble Count, you have still a more noble heart than either I or my son: to you I am beholden for seeing him again; and for this most important service I will love and thank you, not only while I live in this world, but in the next also. His courtship with Amalia, Steeley so artfully managed in relating, that he touched hardly upon any other circumstances than such as he knew would touch his father most closely. He made it appear, that all their conversation had turned upon nothing else but friendship; and that their declaration of loving each other had not been made before they had prepared themselves to set out from Moscow: all which pleased the old gentleman very well; and every thing was charming in Amalia: add, that the more manifest it was from Steeley's whole account, that Amalia had not granted his son an intimacy with her before their marriage, the more he was rejoiced, and the greater respect did he shew towards her. After Steeley had ended his narration, his father embraced Amalia again. Ah! said he, my son does not deserve you. He is worthy to possess a good wife; but by what merits has he gained the ascendant over you? Come with me to London, there I have a large house; and there is no pleasanter place

place in the world to reside in, than London. What? interrupted I—than London? No! not in London only, proceeded he smiling, but here, if you prefer this place; and asked me, whether I would suffer him to tarry some days with her, and not be against his manner of living, because it was different from the way of the world. With all his little faults and oversights, the old gentleman was really a very valuable man; and the good meaning he had, even when he committed them, made them excusable in him. He was bold indeed, but did not exceed the bounds of civility; and his positiveness was only superficial, and therefore not very troublesome in conversation. We passed this and the following day in a wedding feast of his own contrivance and regulation; and he was so very alert and merry at it, as incited us all to be of the same disposition; for his motto was, *Be Merry and Wise*. My son, said he, has occasioned me many melancholy hours; and now he shall make me a return for them of as many joyful days. He danced the same evening till eleven of the clock, and was in activity and in the presence of Sir R—, the Count, and his own son, a perfect youth. This, said he at last, is the right way of being merry: but so late have I not been out of my bed in forty years: yet I do not look upon dancing to be a sin: for should I die even this night,

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my having been merry would not make me unhappy. Sir R— taking advantage of the opportunity, asked him, what had preserved him so lively and gay till these years ; and what had set him above the fear of death, who by reason of his advanced age could not be far from him. That I am still so lively and gay, replied he, is a gift from God, and the result of a regular life, to which I have used myself ever since my youth : and why should I be afraid of death ? I am a merchant, who has taken care of his business ; and, God knows, that to my best knowledge I have wronged nobody of a penny : I have been benevolent to the needy ; and God will be so to me : the world here is fine ; but the world to come much better was not such a man to be valued, who ever from his younger age had addicted himself to traffick, and now in his declining years had still that noble heart. It seemed that Amalia's great fortune did not give him any particular satisfaction. My dear son, said he, thou hast more good-luck than other people ; but thou hast also a greater care upon thee, and that is, to make a right use of thy luck.

After he had amassed every kind of satisfaction which a father in his circumstances could expect, he thought of returning to his own country, and all our joint intreaties to him that he would condescend to honour

us longer with his company, proved in vain. I will die in London, said he, and be buried near my wife—let me go, before the sea becomes boisterous: I will leave my son with you, and will be contented if he comes to England next year. Young Steeley seemed not inclined to let his father go by himself; neither was he willing to part from us. In short, we all, except Carolina, agreed to accompany the old gentleman to London, and to stay there till the spring. This was what he had wished all the while, but had not had the courage to desire of us.

Before we left Holland, Mr. Steeley gave himself the merit of a laudable action. The young man who (as I have mentioned above) had forsaken the object of his love, and whose name was Wid, was by this time thoroughly recovered of his malady both of mind and body, and wished for no more than to have the possession of his bride, and to be reconciled to his father; to whom we indeed had sent a letter in his son's behalf, but he sent us for answer, that he would not concern himself about him, assuring us withal, that notwithstanding his but indifferent circumstances, he had already disinherited him, to debar him from enjoying an equal advantage with the rest of his children. We pitied the young man, because we could partly see, that he would repent the folly of his youth, and make amends for

for his former miscarriages by his future course of life. He had been at the University of Leiden till his seventeenth year ; and then was obliged, by his father's command, to employ himself in a merchant's compting-house. Andreas, who at that time had occasion for such a man, was very ready to take him at the first overture, and even admitted him to become a partner in a particular branch of his commerce ; and every thing being settled and agreed upon by the parties concerned, we made a handsome entertainment to serve as a wedding-feast for the young couple. Amalia shewed herself very generous to the bride ; and the old gentleman and the Count gave a thousand dollars to the bridegroom. Over and above this, we advanced to him a considerable sum to begin trade with ; and acquainted his father with all our proceedings, in regard to his son, on purpose to engage the old man to a reconciliation with his child. And now we committed our daughter, and our house and goods to the care of Carolina ; and upon the twelfth day after the old gentleman's coming here, we went to sea. The wind was very favourable to us, and we sailed a good pace ; yet that we might reach London the sooner, we quitted our bulky vessel, and went on board a packet boat which we met by the way ; but it proved to our misfortune, which hap-

pened in the following manner, *viz.* We were all got into the boat, except Amalia's old servant, Albert, who was going to convey the hand trunk to his master, in which was the greatest part of Amalia's treasure, consisting in gold and jewels: Steeley, and a servant of the Count, indeed, were prepared to receive these riches; but Albert, whether out of carelessness, or that the strong motion of the ship was the occasion of it, let the trunk fall into the sea, before our eyes; at the same instant, either out of a surprize, or because he leaned too much over the border of the vessel, precipitated himself into the sea, and it was with great difficulty that we saved him alive, besides loosing a treasure of more than fifty thousand dollars, in a moment's time. Albert being now in the boat; well, said Amalia to her husband, am I still as dear to you as I was before? Which Steeley affirmed by a most solemn oath; upon which she made herself easy. The old gentleman, though he was far from being a niggard, or courting money, was nevertheless not easy about this accident, and reprimanded Albert some time: At last he took Amalia by the hand, be of good heart, said he, I have, God be thanked, as much as will serve you both to live upon comfortably, after I am gone. Poor Albert in the mean time paid for his inadvertency with his life; for he came sick

sick to London, and died soon after our arrival there. Amalia and Steeley had an extraordinary love for this man ; and though he had been the occasion of having lost their treasure, yet were they so far from making him suffer for it, that they rather rewarded him upon his dying bed, in a most generous manner, for the faithfulness with which he had acquitted himself during his long service, first to Amalia, and after her marriage, to her and Steeley. As soon as they heard from the physician, that there were but little hopes of his recovery, they caused him to be brought into a room next to theirs, to convince him that they harboured no malice against him, which was what he feared, and what troubled him most. Shortly before he died, Amalia went to him ; the old gentleman came with her, and seated himself by his bedside to see him expire. He dies very easy, observed Mr. Steeley to us ; and were it God's will, I should chuse to die now likewise. Our dying servant seemed to rise himself once more ; but a stream of blood issued at that instant from his mouth, and Albert was dead. Don't I look surprized ? said the old gentleman, trembling. At this we would have led him into another room ; but he could not support himself upon his legs, and we were obliged to have him carried to it. Let me have my grandfa-

ther's elbow chair, said he to us ; that shall be the bed in which I will die, for I perceive my end to be at hand. The chair was brought, and he desired us to place it by the window that looked into the garden, on purpose to turn his eyes up to behold Heaven. Being seated, he lifted his hands up, and begged of us (for we were all present) not to disturb him. Having made his prayers, he called his son to him : I find, said he to him, that I shall not live long ; your good servant Albert has surprized me very much ; but that could not be helped : here, take the key of the bureau, and God bless you and your wife with the substance which I leave you ; there is not one penny of it which has been got unfairly. A physician having been sent for, he opened a vein for the old gentleman, to which at first he would not consent : but as no blood followed, the doctor tried to fetch it from his foot, but neither there had the lancet its usual effect. Do you see, said Mr. Steeley to the doctor, that your art is of no signification, where God will not permit ? What hopes have you now ? None, replied the physician. You speak like a man, returned Mr. Steeley ; I love you for telling me your opinion without hesitation. Make use, proceeded the doctor, of the short time, to compose yourself, and to settle your

your affairs. Mr. Steeley said smiling, do you think that in four-score years I should not have had time to prepare myself for death? God may call upon me when he sees fit, I am ready; and nothing more is wanting on my part, than to take farewell: where are my son and my welcome guests? Upon this all of us appeared before him, and he took his farewell of each of us in particular. After which ceremony, ah! said he, how well will it be in the next world!—I am ravished with the thoughts of it; and who will be the first amongst you whom I shall embrace there? I have a great dimness in my eyes, else I am very well; very at uttering which last word, he was seized with a fit of fainting, of which he soon after expired.

Thus was the joy of our safe arrival at London chequered with this mournful event; and the noise of the town, together with many visits which were made us, became so troublesome to us, that after the funeral of Mr. Steeley, we resolved to spend the rest of the autumn, and the ensuing winter, at Steeley's country house, which was not many miles from London. There we lived six months with the greatest satisfaction and privacy; except that sometimes we visited the sister of Steeley's former bride; which civilities she returned with equal complaisance. Of her whole family none but she

was living ; and her fixed resolution was, never to marry : none but she knew who was my husband ; for in the neighbourhood he passed for a gentleman, under the name of Lowenhock. This Lady, besides being a beauty, was possessed of the most engaging qualities ; and Amalia, she, and I, spent many an hour over the tomb of her sister, and honoured her memory with the libation of our tears.

By this time the season of the spring being pretty far advanced, several families from London were retiring to the country. The seat nearest to us belonged to the Secretary of state Mr. R—, who formerly had been Steeley's fellow collegian at Oxford ; and the latter having a great desire to see Mr. R— after so many years, he sent him a letter, as soon as he was informed that he was come to his country house, and begged leave for himself, his wife, and two of his good friends, to attend him. Mr. R— was not displeased at this request ; and not having had the least knowledge of Steeley's return from Moscow, he sent him the next day an answer to his letter ; and, as a token of his earnest desire to see him, his own coach, to fetch him and his company. Sir R— was indisposed, and therefore we four filled the coach, and went to Mr. R—, where we arrived a little before dinner. He received us with great politeness, and Steeley presented

presented my husband to him under the disguised name as a friend who had come from Siberia along with him. Mr. R— happened to have no other company at that time, and therefore desired us to sit down directly to table, that he might enjoy the opportunity of our conversation. But we were scarce seated, and had spoken nothing, besides matter of mutual compliment, when a servant of the Secretary's came to tell him, that somebody was desirous to wait upon him ; which he delivered so whisperingly, that we could understand nothing of it but the word Ambassador. What an unseasonable interruption is this ! returned Mr. R— quite displeased ; and, attended by the servant, hastened out of the room. We did not rise at all, but remained in our chairs, expecting the fresh visiter with uneasiness : but, oh Heaven ! what a sight was it to me and the Count, when Mr. R— complimented the Prince of S— into the room : we got both of us up from table, and did not know whether it would be best to quit the room. The Prince came close up to me, as though he would not trust his eyes, and at the same time discovered the Count, which surprized him to that degree, as made his lively colour change into a livid paleness. Mr. R— perceived nothing of this secret ; and intreated the Prince and us, whom he called his friends, to sit down at

table: but the Prince excused himself, and said, that he had already dined, and was come on purpose to divert himself an hour or two with him abroad, if it should suit him. Mr. R— complied to it; but the Prince seeing company with him, declined taking him from them. Give me but your gentleman with me, said he confusedly; in the evening, I promise I will be your guest, without fail: after which he made his compliments to all of us, and Mr. R— conducted him to his coach. We being now left by ourselves, ah! said my husband, addressing himself to Steeley, whither have you brought us? and what will become of me and my wife!—This was the Prince of S—; no doubt he is here about the King's affairs; and I, I Here Mr. R— returned again, seemingly out of humour. I do not know, said he, what made the Prince look so much surprized: I believe he knows some one of you, or at least he imagines so: he asked in particular after you (meaning the Count); but I told him that I did not know my guests myself, as yet. The Prince is come hither very lately upon the King his master's account, and will perhaps soon return to his command in the army. In the mean time our generous entertainer guessed from the alteration in our countenances, that there was something mysterious in the affair, and begg'd of us to acquaint him, if it

it was not of too great importance, and could be done without prejudicing ourselves. I will tell you all, Sir, resumed the Count ; and I crave your protection before-hand, if you should think me deserving of it. “ I “ am the Count of G*, and my name, “ perhaps, is not unknown to you till now, “ by the misfortune which has attended “ me. ’Tis about ten years ago that I was “ so unfortunate as to be cast for my life “ by a court martial, when I filled the post “ of a Colonel in the Swedish service.” Then he went on to tell him the rest ; and how for his own security he had taken the name of Lowenhock upon himself, while he was a prisoner in Russia. “ The Prince “ who waited upon you just now” continued he, “ is my enemy ; and my con- “ demnation, I believe, has been the ef- “ fect of his vengeance against me : but “ I shall not recite to you his motives for “ my destruction, since they would expose “ him perhaps to greater torment than his “ self-tormenting vengeance inflicts upon “ him. I guess from his surprize that he “ has thought me to be dead long ago ; and “ who knows whether time has not dead- “ ened his hatred to me : yet, concluded “ the Count, if I am not as innocent as I “ have represented myself to you, then “ may God suffer me to die by the perse- “ cution of this Prince.” Mr. R— having
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given close attention to what the Count related to him, his blood seemed to be in a ferment at the Prince's conduct, with respect to the Count, to whom he gave his hand, and said, pray stay with me, I will bestow all my interest which I have at Court, for your security ; and if that will not do, my life : depend upon what I say ; I am an honest man : after a few hours I will go to meet the Prince, and attend him to my house ; and at my return I will give you my advice what will be best for you to do. In the mean time tell me what other adversities have happened to you ; for I see very well that none of us is inclined for eating. We complied with his request ; and when we had done telling our story, I am your friend, said Mr. R—, more I cannot say to you ; but I will demonstrate the sincerity of my words by real proofs. And now it was about the time for him to meet the Prince ; wherefore he desired us to take a view of his garden till he should return ; and then he left us. There we walked and talked wavering between fear and hopes, like the subsiding billows of the sea after some raging tempest, so long till we became impatient, and had almost resolved to go home again without his leave. At last we perceived him and the Prince enter the garden ; at the sight whereof my heart was again set in tumults. The Prince having made his compliment

pliment to me and to Amalia, went directly towards the Count, who was walking at a little distance behind us, and embraced him. I am your friend, said he, though I could never have become so before ; and I wish you would become one to me : we thought every one of you had been dead long ago : I know you have had injustice done to you in the army ; and now it depends upon you to name what satisfaction you chuse ? None, replied the Count, but what you have given me already ; *viz.* that I am innocent, and deserving of the King's favour. Of that, interrupted the Prince, you are so deserving, that in his name I propose these two preliminaries to you ; either to return with me to Sweden, and to the army, where I will offer you the post of a General, as this will be the best declaration whereby the accusations which were formed against you, when Colonel, can be annihilated ; or in case you should not chuse this, then I would have you continue in England, till I have the King's consent to constitute you his Majesty's Envoy here, after I shall be gone from hence ; of which high office I know you are not unworthy, as you will study to make the glory of Sweden your own province. Your assent, noble Count ! that I may have the satisfaction to shew you my esteem for you, and my endeavours to make amends for what is passed. But the Count refused

refused both these offers. I am contented, said he, that you are my friend, and will recommend me to the King's favour again: more I do not desire. Should I venture myself once more into the busy world, and become great, perhaps to be unfortunate again? No, I will end my life without troubling myself any more with publick affairs. Mr. R— at last joined in our discourse; and our apprehensions against the Prince began now to abate. Be it either that his revenge was satiated, or that his conscience had troubled him, the Prince shewed an extraordinary satisfaction all that evening, to see the Count alive, whom he had counted among the dead an age ago: and my husband behaved so free and open to him, as though he had never been offended by him. Evening being now pretty far advanced, the Prince took his leave of us, because he was to return to London very early in the morning. If you are my friend, said the Prince, embracing the Count, then visit me before this week is out, or else I come to you. The Count indeed assured him that he would; but he was denied to keep his promise—the fatal time was come that I should lose him a second time; for in the dead time of that very night he was taken ill of a fever; and therefore we took leave of our generons entertainer in the morning, and hastened back to Steeley's country house:

house : but the fever had almost destroy'd the poor Count's spirits, and enfeebled him in a few days to such a degree, that he gave over all hopes of recovery. It was till the ninth day that I did not come from his side night nor day ; and I strove to save him for me, even against the stern decree of fate ; so dear was he still to me. Three days before his end he wished the Prince would come to him ; of which we gave immediate notice to the former, and the next day he was at an early hour with my husband. Do you see, my Prince, said the Count to him, that I have no farther occasion for the King's favour ? I have wished to see you, purely that I might take farewell of you, and to convince you that I die your friend. The Prince was so moved, and at the same time so confused with the crimson effects of conscious guilt, which immediately diffused themselves in their native hue over his haughty face, that he could not say but very little in answer to it ; but sat down by the bed-side, almost half an hour, pressing the Count by the hand, and asked him, is there nothing in which I can serve you, besides my compassion ? But the Count's disease began then to master his senses, so that he could hardly make an answer, and only desired the Prince to leave him. Accordingly he went away, greatly concerned, without having the courage to take his leave of me.

The

The next day the Count returned out of a deep sleep to himself again, and Amalia, Steeley, and Sir R—, though not well himself, attended him by the bed-side. Just now, said he to me, I thought I should not have seen you again : but, in the words of our blessed Saviour, “ A little while you shall see me, and in a little while you shall not see me.” Ah! my dear, it is easy to die ; but to part with you and my friends, that is what tinctures the heart with the guilt of bitterness. I am dying ; and to you, my loving Sir R—, I commit my spouse. He died accordingly before midnight; but I will not attempt to describe my concern for his death ; for he was a pattern of most tender conjugal love, heightened even to excess. In the mean time I found a pleasure in my tears, for they kept me from thinking of rest for several weeks ; and instead of comforting me, Amalia assisted me in mourning ; and as for Sir R—, he was obliged most part of the time to keep his bed, which also augmented my grief. Steeley alone was thinking of my repose, and engaged me to return with him to London, after we had lived the major part of the year in the country.

The first thing that occurred to me here again, was a proposal from the Prince. He was upon the point of departing from London ; but at our arrival there, he ventured, in

in company with Mr. R—, to visit me, under colour of condoling with me for the loss of the Count. Within the next two days he repeated his visits several times, and desired me to give him a petition to the King, that he would be pleased to restore to me the confiscated lands and chattels of my deceased husband. I caused a petition to be drawn up, and gave to him, merely with a view of not affronting him; and on the very same day I received a visit from the Secretary Mr. R—, I will, said he, addressing himself to me after a profusion of compliments, briefly tell you the occasion of my coming. I am a messenger from the Prince, and I am not sure that you will not be offended at my message: do you know that his Princess died some years ago? He wishes he could take you with him as his comfort, to Sweden; and there is nothing more certain than that he loves you extremely: in a word, he wants to know by me, whether he may have any hopes of you, or not? And now I have told you the whole; but you need not confine yourself to any particulars in your answer. Steeley, Amalia, and Sir R—, were present when this overture was made me; and it frightened Sir R—, as though he had already lost me. I myself could not help being surprised at the audaciousness of the Prince, and gave Mr. R— no other answer than, here is my husband,

band, pointing at Sir R—. He was in fact still so valuable to me, that I should have preferred him before any one else, could I have resolved to marry again: and perhaps, I may say, I should have been tender and weak enough to have done it, had he lived longer: but he died of his lingering Ailment; and my concern for his lots convinced me how dear he had ever been to my heart.

It may appear to some readers, from the course of my story, that I have been not a little fickle in my loves: that I was as fond of Sir R— as of the Count himself, the master of my virgin vows: that, immediately after the death of the latter, I was disposing my mind to accept of the former man, as his second successor, had not cruel fate intervened: and, lastly, that my refusal of the Prince was owing rather to the strength of my resentment, than to the decay of my passion. But let such ill-natur'd remarkers observe, as a full answer to every one of these accusations, that, if I was fond of Sir R—, it was no more than he had merited of me by a long course of the most respectful assiduities, and real acts of friendship: nevertheless, that, upon the recovery of my late-lost husband, the pure flame which he had excited in my breast was not extinguished; but, as the most virtuous wife in history

history would have done, I returned with my former ardour to the object of my *first Love*; and in his faithful arms forgot every other charm: So that my marriage with the other will appear rather the just reward of friendship, than the partial preference of love: and the same consideration would have also fully excused my second connexion in the same bond with Sir R—. As to the resentment with which the objection supposes I was agitated in regard to the Prince, no doubt it was justifiable: nor could I with decency have submitted to become the consort of a man, in his nature cruel, and the intentional murderer of the Lord of my heart; which would be to reward treachery with fidelity! Horrible union! If all this will not excuse me to the false delicacy of some, let them lay their hands to their breasts; and when they have thoroughly examined what passes there, let them freely cast the first stone; but, even then, let them beware of the rebound.

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